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THE TIMES

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THURSDAY APRIL 14 1994

Test case may open claim floodgate

Lloyd's names win fight for compensation

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Lloyd's names won compensation for huge insurance losses yesterday in a High Court test case that clears the way for hundreds more investors to try to recover their money.

Mr Justice Gagehouse ruled that the two men had been given negligent advice about where their money was being invested, and said that one should have never have become a name at all.

Michael Sword-Daniels and Richard Brown had both sued their members' agents — the people responsible for guiding investment decisions — for not following their instructions that they should be placed on "low-risk" syndicates.

The claims were chosen as test cases last year by Mr Justice Saville, who was then in charge of Lloyd's litigation, because the two men came from opposite ends of the financial spectrum. Mr Brown, a successful Yorkshire businessman who has lost £1 million, was the "rich man"; Mr Sword-Daniels, a dentist from Burgess Hill, West Sussex, the "poor man". He has lost more than £500,000 and stands to lose a further £1 million.

Mr Justice Gagehouse said that Mr Sword-Daniels should have been dissuaded from becoming a name, and he was yesterday awarded his losses in full as well as indemnity against future losses still to be made in previous years.

The two men's court success was described as the most important Lloyd's case so far. Another thirty such cases are in the pipeline, and hundreds more names are expected to launch similar actions to recover the billions of pounds they have lost on the world's biggest insurance market.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents more than 3,000 litigating names, said: "The most important thing in this ruling is that



Sword-Daniels should not have become a name

names were awarded an indemnity against future losses. That means we can reasonably hope to get an indemnity in our case." The group's case will start on April 26 after the House of Lords yesterday rejected an application from members' agents for it to be adjourned.

David Tiplady, a solicitor representing Mr Brown, said: "This is potentially the most important of all the Lloyd's cases since its implications affect every Lloyd's name." The defendants, the former HG Poland agency, may appeal.

Ruling in favour of the two names, Mr Justice Gagehouse said the members' agents should have alerted them to the high-risk nature of the syndicates on which they were placed. "On the evidence I have heard, I conclude that no competent members' agent would have failed to do so at the relevant time," he said.

Mr Sword-Daniels, who joined the market in 1987 to finance his daughters' education, was described by the judge as a nervous investor who wanted a safety-first approach, and without the assurance he received from Michael Pitel of HG Poland, "he would have shied away from becoming a name."

Mr Sword-Daniels earned £32,800 a year as a dentist and his other income totalled no more than £2,000 a year. He had financed his Lloyd's membership with a £100,000 bank guarantee over his half share

of the family home, but the judge said that a man with his financial means should have been discouraged from joining Lloyd's.

"His slender assets, comparatively modest income, limited underwriting ambitions and, above all, his known unwillingness to face the possibility of serious losses all required a cautious, even pedestrian underwriting strategy," Mr Justice Gagehouse said. Instead, seven of the 14 syndicates on which he was placed were deemed high-risk.

The case of Mr Brown, managing director and sole shareholder of Huddersfield-based Keward Textile Machinery, was far more complex. He joined the market in 1976, initially with a cautious approach with an underwriting limit of £50,000. However, over the following years he increased his limit until in 1989 it reached £1.3 million.

A graduate of Imperial College, London University, with a masters degree in business administration from London Business School, Mr Brown was described by Mr Justice Gagehouse as an intelligent man, but the judge said he was devious in some of his evidence. At times his evidence was evasive and his answers contradictory.

When he joined Lloyd's, Mr Brown's knowledge of underwriting was minimal and his underwriting policy was cautious and conservative. By the mid-1980s, he was more sophisticated. "Mr Brown was an independent-minded name who took his own decisions on syndicates and allocations, rejecting Mr Maclean's (his members' agent) recommendations when he thought fit," the judge said.

But in spite of this, Mr Maclean had not given him any warning of the dangers of these syndicates that Mr Brown was entitled to expect, "however sophisticated an investor he may have been" and even if his strategy had changed from his original cautious approach.

Mr Brown was not awarded the full amount of his claim because the judge decided that even had he been given adequate warning, he would have allocated about 30 per cent of his total underwriting limit to high-risk syndicates.



Phil Tufnell is held aloft by Chris Lewis after taking the catch to dismiss Lara

England break 59-year duck

ENGLAND'S cricketers achieved a momentous victory shortly before tea in the fourth Test against West Indies in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

Having left West Indies to score 446, more than any side has made to win a Test in the fourth innings, England dismissed them for 237, winning

by 208 runs. The bowling honours were shared by Andrew Caddick, who took five wickets, and Phil Tufnell, who captured three and took the vital catch to dismiss Lara.

West Indies, who had already established a winning 3-0 lead in the series, had not been beaten in Barbados since going down to the

England side led by R.E.S. Wyatt in 1935, and had won 12 successive Test matches at Kensington Oval.

Alec Stewart, the first Englishman to score centuries in both innings against the West Indies, was named man of the match.

Match report, page 44

Three girls vanished into thin air, court is told

By PAUL WILKINSON

EVERY parent's nightmare came true when Susan Maxwell, Caroline Hogg and Sarah Harper vanished "as if into thin air", a court was told yesterday.

All three girls were abducted and murdered between 1982 and 1986 and their bodies found dumped long distances from their homes.

In all three cases, their disappearance coincided with the movements of Robert Black, 46, a van driver, Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court was told by John Milford QC for the prosecution.

The murders of Susan Maxwell, 11, Caroline Hogg, 5, and Sarah Harper, 10, led to the biggest police investigation in Britain.

Mr Black, of Stamford Hill, north London, denies nine charges relating to the kidnapping and murder of the girls and one charge of kidnapping Teresa Thornhill, 15, in 1988.

Opening the prosecution, Mr Milford told the jury of six men and six women that Susan Maxwell disappeared on the first day she was allowed to walk home alone.

Susan disappeared "as if into thin air" near her home at Cornhill on Tweed, Northumberland. Her body was found 13 days later next to a lay-by at Loxley Green, Staffordshire.

Caroline Hogg disappeared almost exactly a year later. Her body was found 13 days later near a lay-by in Twycross, Leicestershire, 24 miles from where Susan's body was found.

Sarah Harper disappeared in March 1986 while walking home in Morley, West Yorkshire. Her body was found 81 miles away in the river Trent nearly a month later.

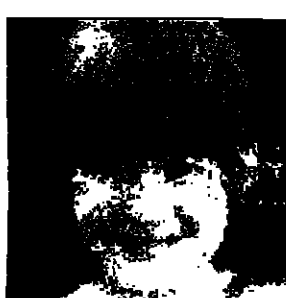
These three offences are so unusual and the points of similarity so numerous it is submitted that you can safely



Sarah Harper: body discovered in river



Caroline Hogg: body was found in lay-by



Susan Maxwell: she walked home alone

conclude they were all the work of one man," Mr Milford said.

Mr Black, he said, emerged as a suspect on July 14, 1990, when he was arrested in the Scottish borders having just abducted a six-year-old girl.

The trial continues.

Vanished girls, page 3

Major gambles by delaying by-election

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major prepared the ground yesterday for the biggest mid-term electoral test in Britain by delaying the Eastleigh by-election until June 9.

He was accused by the Liberal Democrats of "running scared" after deciding that the poll should not be held on May 5, the day of the local elections. Instead it will take place on the same day as the European elections, and up to four other by-elections.

Fear that the expected Liberal Democrat victory at Eastleigh would give them unstoppable momentum for the European poll was the key factor behind the decision, recommended by Mr Major by Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative chairman. But Tory MPs agreed that it was a big gamble, reinforcing the perception of June 9 as a referendum on Mr Major and the government.

Tory strategists were swayed by Euro-MPs who argued that a victory for

Paddy Ashdown's party at Eastleigh on May 5 would mean the worst possible start to the European campaign. They recalled the experience of 1989 when a Labour victory in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election stole the headlines from a respectable Conservative performance.

Another argument for delay was that Liberal Democrat resources are likely to be more stretched on June 9 when there are elections across the country.

While most Tory MPs appeared to back the decision, some ministers believe it is a grave mistake. They fear the Liberal Democrats will get a double boost by doing well in the local elections and then winning Eastleigh, as well as making capital from the "running away" charge.

The Rotherham by-election will be held on May 5. The contests at Barking, Newham North East, Dagenham, Bradford South could all come on June 9.



Guy: gave up hope of being found alive

Navy rescues yachtswoman

A YACHTSWOMAN lost for almost two months in the South Atlantic has been rescued by the Royal Navy. Anne Lise Guy, 44, from Queensland, Australia, had given up hope of being found after her radio and steering were broken.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker Grey Rover spotted the 11-metre yacht Wildfire floating north of South Georgia on Tuesday in what the Royal Navy described as "a one in a million chance".

Palestine terrorists plan more revenge

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HAMAS, the militant Islamic Palestinian group opposed to the peace process, said the bus bomb that killed six people and wounded 30 yesterday in the Israeli town of Hadera, was only the second of five planned revenge attacks for the Hebron mosque massacre.

The blast, believed to have been carried out by an Arab suicide bomber, came a week after another Hamas suicide car bomber struck in Galilee, killing seven Jews and launching the campaign to avenge the deaths of 29 in February's Hebron mosque killings.

Last night, Israel Radio broadcast an appeal by the government's anti-terrorism expert for all Israelis to be vigilant during today's celebrations to mark the 46th anniversary of independence. Yesterday's attack came as Israelis marked the annual Remembrance Day for the 17,955 men and women killed in the five Arab-Israeli wars.

The fundamentalist organisation, in a statement claim-

ing responsibility for the Hadera attack, said: "This is our second response to the [Hebron] massacre and the rest is to come." Hamas, which is pledged to sabotage the peace pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, boasted that its military capability had been unaffected by new Israeli security measures. Referring to the name of its military wing, the statement issued in Jordan, added: "The Izz-ul-din al-Qassam battalions have pledged to our people to take revenge for the blood of the martyrs of Hebron and that the response will be very violent. And we decided that our response would be in five stages: every one making the Zionists and settlers cry blood on their dead."

Yesterday's attack came on the day Israeli troops were due to have pulled out from Jericho and Gaza.

Suicide bomber, page 11
Peter Brookes, page 16

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Heseltine's black day swings from bad to verse

Something seems to have upset Michael Heseltine. Nobody and nothing pleased him yesterday. Labour questioners received terse, irritated replies, while even friendly Tory poolies were sent away with cursory lists of statistics, snuffily delivered.

The President of the Board of Trade snapped angrily at Ann Clwyd: "She can go on saying these things as long as she likes." Labour's junior employment spokesman was only trying to put in a sympathetic word for distressed Welsh miners at Tower colliery, about to lose their jobs. For her pains (and theirs) she was treated to a contemptuous dismissal of

those who cannot find a buyer for what they produce. "Bah, humbug!" summed up his mood.

He growled at Labour's Peter Mandelson (Harlepool). The young Mandelson was making a plea for industrial morale in the north of England. The Labour Party, backed Heseltine at a couple of Opposition MPs who were showing signs of unwarranted levity at his answers, thought it was a "national joke" when business confidence improved.

He even attempted a flailing punch at Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) who had asked what was (for Sir Teddy) a mild question describing the European Union as a "ridiculous socialistic



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

organisation". Heseltine, who normally rises above this sort of thing, took an irritable and none-too-fluent swipe at those who thought Britain should leave the EU. All in all, the President was not his usual, confident, expansive self on the industry bench at Questions yesterday.

Perhaps he was a touch disappointed about something? A little miffed, possibly, still to be there? Like waking up from a dream in which one has become a rock star, a football hero... a prime minister, even... one

blinks, focuses on the heap of dirty linen on the floor that is yesterday's clothes... and realises that these, after all, are the circumstances of one's life, and likely to remain so. Mr Heseltine's short fuse and depressed countenance put us in mind of that Tom Jones hit, "The green, green grass of home"...

"I wake up and look around me—
At four grey walls which surround me.
And I realise — oh, yes, I realise —
I was only dreaming."

With no more than a slight effort of the imagination it was possible to imagine Heseltine doing a classic karaoke rendering, from the front bench, of Tom Jones's great hit. Frilly lace shirt unbuttoned half way to reveal a tanned, hairy and medallioned chest, leather trousers far too tight, a toilet roll stuffed discreetly down them to enhance his leadership prospects, the Industry Secretary grips the mike and, belting it out with great intensity, sings:

"Yes, they'll all come to meet me.
Arms reaching, smiling sweetly.
It's good to touch the green,
Green grass of...
...well, Chequers."

Then, laying down his mike for a moment, he looks around. The Chamber is nearly empty. The television monitor screens say *Industry Questions*.

The tattered file of civil servants' notes on the table before him reads *Trade & Industry: 13 April 94: supplementary briefing*. To his left sits a junior whip and a junior minister.

Sadly, the prisoner picks up his mike again, and croons soulfully:

"And there's a guard, and
There's a sad old padre,
On and on we'll walk at daybreak.
Again to touch the green,
Green grass of...
...Well, the DoI, 123
Victoria Street, SW1."

Major urges nation to join celebrations to remember D-Day

BY JOHN YOUNG

JOHN Major called on the nation yesterday to join in thanksgiving to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy.

"June 6, 1944, is one of the most memorable dates in history," he said. "It not only changed the course of the Second World War, it changed our future and probably the future of the rest of the world as well."

The anniversary was a huge national event and he intended it to be commemorated on a national scale. Besides the bravery and the sacrifice of those who fought in the campaign, people should remember the immense effort made by civilians, he said. The legacy of their effort was peace, security and freedom.

Hundreds of companies, voluntary organisations, newspapers and broadcasters are to contribute to the celebrations. The Churches will also play a big role, and there will be services of thanksgiving all over the country on Sunday, June 5, with bells providing a gesture of remembrance.

Mr Major was speaking at a ceremony in a marquee in

Grosvenor Square, central London, to launch a programme of civilian events to complement the military ceremonies. Although his appearance had not been advertised, officials denied that it was a last-minute decision.

Afterwards he spent more than half an hour meeting Second World War veterans. Among the guests was Dame Vera Lynn, who proved that at 76 she had lost neither her voice nor her timing in performing her two greatest hits, "The White Cliffs of Dover" and "We'll Meet Again".

Iain Sproat, the national heritage minister, said that more than 500 commemorative events would be taking place throughout the country. They would begin with a fly-past by the Red Devils and a parachute display at Kempton Park racecourse, Surrey, on the May Day bank holiday and would include a parade of 20,000 veterans in Southampton on May 27 and a national family day in Hyde Park, London.

Children will play an important part. Information packs are being sent out to all primary and secondary

schools, many of which are involved in projects and events related to the celebrations.

Television soap operas, including *Coronation Street*, *EastEnders*, *Brookside* and *Emmerdale*, and on radio *The Archers*, will all contain references to D-Day.

Grosvenor Square, overlooked by the United States embassy, is to be landscaped as a permanent garden of thanksgiving. Raymond Seitz, the American Ambassador, said yesterday that no single event better captured the depths and dedication of the Anglo-American relationship than "that dangerous, daring endeavour".

Mr Major said it would be a haven of peace and beauty where people would be able to go and cast their minds back to 1944. They might recall General Montgomery's personal message to the troops on the eve of the great crusade: "To us is given the honour of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history; and in the better days that lie ahead, men will speak with pride of our doings."

Veterans' pensions, page 7



John Major greeting Dame Vera Lynn, who sang some of her wartime hits

BR hints at £70 return to Paris through tunnel

FROM TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

RETURN rail fares from London to Paris through the Channel tunnel could be as low as £70, British Rail said yesterday. More details of the cost of the three-hour journey emerged when one of the fleet of 18-carriage Eurostar trains went through its paces for the media in France and

achieved an effortless 186mph on a test run from Paris to Arras. The Queen and President Mitterrand will perform the tunnel's opening ceremony next month.

Travellers yesterday reported that coffee remained unsplashed and a pound coin stayed balanced upright on a table as the train sped through the countryside. There is two-abreast air-line-style seating with a central aisle,

fresh air jets, personal lighting and even thermostatically controlled water in the lavatories.

Malcolm Southgate, the European Passenger Service deputy managing director, hinted that some return fares could be less than £100. Some off-peak winter return fares could be as low as £70, a saving of more than £30 on the cheapest return flight from London. Because of continuing problems that

have delayed the announcement of any date for scheduled services, Mr Southgate would say only that Eurostar trains would carry up to 800 fare-paying passengers "sometimes in the summer", although limited "souvenir" services will probably begin in June. When the service is running as planned, trains from London will reach Paris in three hours and Brussels in 3½ hours.

Hercules fleet damaged by repairers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Government's military privatisation programme, has suffered a further serious setback after the RAF's Hercules fleet was damaged during modification work, it was disclosed yesterday.

The military maintenance specialist Airwork, already accused of causing £100 million of irreparable damage to Tornados fighters, has agreed to foot the bill.

Ministry of Defence officials said the new troubles centred on the Bournemouth-based company's work to fit infrared defensive systems to 19 of the fleet of 61 aircraft.

The problem was spotted midway through the work, with damage to some of the load-bearing structures, and the company was accused of "lower than expected" standards of workmanship.

A reworked programme has been agreed with the company which is expected to be completed next month, the MoD said. "There will be no cost to the MoD and there will be no long-term ill-effect to the aircraft."

The damage will fuel opposition to the Government's market-testing programme in which civilian companies are invited to compete for work in the forces with existing service specialists.

Airwork was acquired by the Belfast-based manufacturer Shorts late last year. Shorts blamed the lack of clearly defined drawings for the problems with the Hercules.

Sentence for shop boy's manslaughter unchanged

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE five-year jail sentence on a shoplifter who punched and killed a schoolboy will not be referred to the Court of Appeal, the Attorney-General said yesterday.

Sir Nicholas Lyell's decision in the case of Andrew Bray, 25, the former soldier who admitted the manslaughter last September of Jonathan Roberts, a 17-year-old supermarket worker, prompted an immediate outcry and stunned the dead boy's family.

Chris Roberts, 42, Jonathan's father, said at his home in Plymouth: "We are just stunned and angry at the decision. 'We were buoyed up by the fact that we thought British justice would be seen to be done. But justice has not been seen to be done. And now we are struck with the thought that justice will never be done in our case. How the hell can you say five years is worth someone's life?'"

Bray, who could be released in less than two years as he served several months on re-

mand awaiting trial, punched Jonathan, a keen athlete, when he tried to stop him making off with stolen shopping. Jonathan choked on his own vomit.

Bray, of Lipson, Plymouth, was cleared of murder after the judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence.

Criticism of the sentence prompted the Attorney-General to study the papers to consider if it was unduly lenient and if he should apply for leave to refer the case to the Court of Appeal for reconsideration.

Kevin McGinty, an official in the Attorney-General's office, said yesterday that after careful consideration of the sentence, Sir Nicholas had decided against referral.

He had taken into account that Bray was acquitted of murder: the prosecution case that he killed Jonathan as he lay unconscious was not supported by trial evidence.

The ruling will increase pressure on the Lord Chief

Justice to review sentences for manslaughter, which in some cases incurs the maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

On Tuesday the Law Commission acknowledged the law was in a muddle and that it was failing to "send a clear message to the public".

The commission, the Government's law reform body, proposed an overhaul of the law, including a new offence of negligent manslaughter carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years.

The law lords will today review a ruling which is causing concern among lawyers because it enables police to claim public interest immunity over evidence people may need in civil proceedings.

The ruling, by the Court of Appeal last September, has already been used by Kent police, who are refusing to release photographs of a woman from Maidstone who claims she was injured while being arrested on suspicion of carrying drugs.

Mayhew allays IRA fear of surrender

The Northern Ireland Secretary has tried to revive the peace initiative by telling republicans that an end to violence does not mean surrender. In a speech in New York Sir Patrick Mayhew appeared to clarify elements of the Downing Street declaration for Sinn Féin. His comments were cautiously welcomed by the republicans, but were condemned by Unionists as self-defeating and a sell-out.

Sir Patrick, who is on a ten-day visit to North America, told the US Foreign Policy Association on Tuesday: "The ending of the armed conflict which has afflicted the lives of so many in Northern Ireland over the last 25 years... is not so going to require any surrender... it will be resolved only through a renunciation of violence, and engagement in the democratic process." Downing Street said the minister's speech had not represented a change of policy. "We have always maintained from the outset that acceptance of the joint declaration does not mean giving up aspirations," an official said. Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, welcomed Sir Patrick's comments.

Sizewell B faces delay

The start-up of Sizewell B, the nuclear power station under construction in Suffolk, could be delayed into next year after speculation that Nuclear Electric, its owners, may be asked to give more information to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution about operations before it can be granted radioactive discharge authorisations. Such information could lead to further public consultation, which could delay operations by several months. Construction is well ahead of schedule and the delay could push start-up back to the original date of February next year.

Wage pledge avoided

John Smith is refusing to be tied down on a figure for the national minimum wage to be introduced by a future Labour government. Party officials have removed from a proposed policy draft a plan to set the figure at £4.05 an hour, a sharp increase on that proposed in the 1992 election manifesto. The suggestion, already seized upon by Tory researchers seeking to discredit Labour's spending plans, was in a submission from the public service workers' union Unison. Mr Smith has warned the shadow Cabinet and the National Executive to avoid specific spending pledges.

Travel safety campaign

Tour operators are pressing the Government to fund a campaign aimed at teaching British holidaymakers how to stay safe abroad. The scheme, by the Institute of Travel and Tourism, would involve information posters at ferry and airports, and persuading airlines, tour operators, travel agents, couriers and hoteliers to provide local information for clients. Linda Gibson, the institute's chief executive, said it was vital that tourists knew how to minimise dangers. "We want to encourage people to do more research on their destination as they often go unprepared." *Travel*, pages 20-21

Fertility law change

An infertility treatment that uses eggs from aborted foetuses is almost certain to be banned in Britain after MPs agreed to a change in the law. A new clause in the Criminal Justice and Public Order bill banning scientists from using the eggs to treat infertile women was agreed in the Commons. Unless the clause is opposed when the Bill reaches the Lords, it is certain to become law. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, said the acceptance of the amendment showed the strength of feeling on the issue. "I share the widespread feeling of revulsion at the notion," she added.

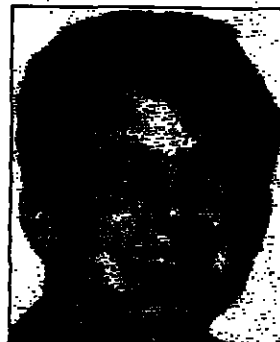
Singer awaits verdict

George Michael's legal battle against his recording company, Sony, ended in the High Court yesterday. Judgment was reserved and is expected to take about two months. The singer claims that his contract with Sony is unreasonable and an unlawful restraint of trade. He has threatened never to record again if he loses.

Canoe deaths trial set

The trial of two men charged with manslaughter following the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy will take place in the autumn. Four school pupils died during an outdoor activity course at the St Alban's centre in Dorset. Joseph Soddart, 54, of West Lulworth was the centre manager and Peter Kite, 44, of Richmond, southwest London was a director of the owners.

Hillsborough plea fails



The doctor who withdrew food and drugs from Hillsborough stadium disaster victim Tony Bland, left, so that he could die in peace, should not be prosecuted for murder, the High Court ruled. Two judges rejected a bid by Father James Morrow to force magistrates to issue a private summons charging consultant Dr Jim Howe. Friday is the fifth anniversary of the disaster.

Youth threatened widow

A teenager who threatened the widow of a south Wales murder victim was given three months' youth custody. The incident happened during February's trial of four youths accused of kicking to death Les Reed, 45, Shane Lewis, 19, went to Linda Reed's home at midnight and threatened her. Lewis, of Ely, Cardiff, admitted threatening behaviour.

1.8m dodge fuel VAT

About 1.1 million households have paid their electricity bills early and 720,000 have paid gas bills in advance to avoid VAT, the Paymaster-General Sir John Cope disclosed last night in a Commons written reply. But he said that the loss to the Exchequer would be small compared with what it expected to raise from VAT on domestic fuel from April 1.



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Unions fear fishing concession to Spain

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government claimed yesterday to have "seen off the Spanish armada" during talks in Luxembourg about the future access of Spanish trawlers to waters round Britain. But fishermen's leaders remained unconvinced and feared the British catch might be reduced.

Michael Jack, the fisheries minister, said these fears were premature. "The game is not over and the whistle has not blown. A balance will have to be maintained between fishing effort and

available stocks but this does not have to mean less fishing by British boats."

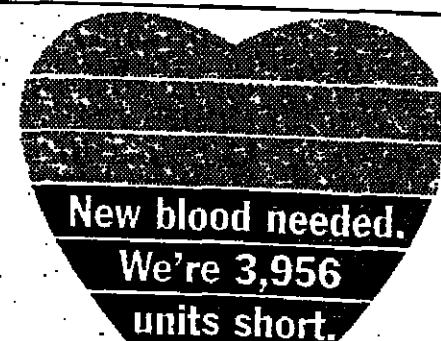
Richard Banks, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "I suspect everyone is going to have to take some pain and UK fishermen are going to have to take some very heavy pain indeed. The Government has signed up to a deal before any of the details have been agreed."

At present Spain, which joined the EC in 1986, has no access to the North Sea or to an area known as the Irish Box around Ireland. Only 300 named boats out of the total Spanish fleet of 20,000 can fish

elsewhere in EC waters and, of these, no more than 145 can fish at any one time.

Mr Jack said the principle had been upheld that catch quotas should be allocated only in waters where a country has a historic record of fishing. "On that basis I can see no reason why the Spanish should ever be allowed into the North Sea as they have never fished there," he said.

Although the Irish Box would lapse at the end of 1995, Mr Jack said the EC had accepted the area should remain a "sensitive zone". But the Luxembourg meeting also agreed that the details of Spanish access would be ironed out later.



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Former soldier on trial

Harrods cameras 'caught IRA bombers'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO English recruits to an IRA gang that bombed London in an indiscriminate four-month campaign were trapped by security cameras while planting a bomb outside Harrods, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

After a misleading coded warning, the bomb exploded in a litter bin, injuring four people. The blast from up to 2lb of Semtex caused nearly £500,000 damage.

The alleged bombers, Jan Taylor, 51, a former British Army soldier, and Patrick Hayes, 41, were captured on film by 17 cameras placed around the Knightsbridge

at Canary Wharf, in Tottenham Court Road, and in the car park at Woodside Park Underground station.

The two men, who both wore black crew-neck sweaters and spectacles, occasionally smiled and waved at people in the public gallery after the trial started amid tight security yesterday.

At the start of the case, which is expected to last more than a month, the jury was shown video film of the accused allegedly on their bombing missions outside Harrods and on the concourse of Victoria station. They had briefcases and Mr Taylor was

wearing a large white mackintosh in which, the court was told, he may have been concealing a gun. John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that mercifully no one had been killed by the IRA's indiscriminate bombing campaign, largely because some of the devices had failed to detonate properly. The bombing at Harrods followed coded warnings to an employee in the banking hall and to the Samaritans organisation. "Whether through incompetence or deliberately, those two warnings were wholly misleading and untrue," Mr Bevan told the court.

It had been suggested that two bombs, one inside and one outside Harrods, were involved. "The obvious reason for warning of a bomb inside would be to cause everyone to be evacuated into the path of the one outside or cause overall panic and confusion," Mr Bevan said. "The warning was an excuse to blame the authorities for what happened and to prevent a device being found, thus ensuring maximum damage."

The trial continues.



The video pictures of Harrods suspects

Champion rottweiler poisoned at show

By EDWARD GORMAN

POLICE are investigating the poisoning of a pedigree rottweiler at a championship dog show.

Officers were called to the show, at Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, ten days ago by the dog's owner, who complained that it became "droopy and unco-ordinated" just before it was due to take part in the competition against 400 dogs.

An investigation established that the dog, named Fernwood Fallon but otherwise known as Rory, had been fed a white powder containing rat poison and a sleeping tablet while it was in the back of a car belonging to its owner, Debbie Rowell, 30, of Nottingham. Mrs Rowell said she found it hard to believe that any animal lover could have done such a thing to Rory, who weighs 120lb and is 2ft 3in high.

Violet Slade, an expert on rottweilers, said she was sure a jealous rival was responsible. "There is no doubt in my mind that they knew which dog they were after. A lot of bigger kennels are jealous of Debbie's success because she's very new to it and she already has a champion."

Brian Leonard, external affairs officer for the Kennel Club, said the culprit was likely to be banned from showing dogs and would not be able to register any new litters with the Club.

Jill Holgate, national secretary of the field spaniel society, who has been showing dogs for 20 years, said the attack confirmed her fears that some people would stop at nothing to win. She said that she and her friends were more vigilant at shows than they felt they should have to be, following an incident several years ago when a chow died after being poisoned.

Pubs open doors to the rowdy element

By JACK CROSSLEY

THE British pub is fast becoming the place to avoid if all the customer wants is a quiet pint. It is turning instead into a rowdy entertainment centre where drink matters less than novel amusements.

The transformation is apparent at the National Pub, Club and Leisure Show at Olympia in west London, where pub attractions on display include trampolining, pole jousting, mechanical surf-riding, inflatable sumo-wrestlers and robotic boxing.

This year's show abjures the pleasures of serious drinking to concentrate on the more urgent business of making money: the show catalogue is decorated with an inn sign inscribed "Gold Mine".

Licencees are uncomfortably aware that far from being gold mines, 10,000 of Britain's 60,000 pubs are expected to close soon.

"They know all about beer," said Cathy Winman, the exhibition manager. "They want to know all about how to survive."

There is little at the exhibition to appeal to pub traditionalists. Microwaves, karaoke, bouncy castles, virtual reality, fancy dress, lotteries and amusements have supplanted ales and stouts.

Drink is not completely ignored. At the Global Beer Company stand, the newest line is Beijing Beer which sells for around 5p a bottle in China. It is due to hit trendy bars here at around £2.

There is a 5cl pocket cocktail called Vicious Virgin (vodka, black cherry and sucrose - 16 per cent alcohol). The explicitly masculine shape of the container is said to be "purely co-incidental". The show ends today.

Leading article, page 17



Soldiers man a road block on an approach road to Crossmaglen yesterday during the meticulous security operation

Army takes no chances for repairs

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY helicopters hovered above a convoy of 40 lorries laden with building materials and bound for a security base in Crossmaglen yesterday. The security operation in south Armagh was one of the biggest in recent years.

Army jeeps and armoured police cars escorted the lorries along the winding country roads where the IRA has launched numerous attacks on military personnel. Police closed off all approach roads in the final seven miles and soldiers provided cover from adjacent fields.

The importance of such elaborate precautions in the most dangerous part of Northern Ireland was underlined yesterday when a local Sinn Féin councillor said there would be fatalities during the work to renovate the security base in the village. Jim McAllister said: "There is no doubt about it, soldiers will be killed during this. That is life in south Armagh."

The heavily fortified joint RUC and army base is being repaired because it has been badly damaged during 15 IRA attacks in the last two years.

IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK

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Bottomley sets new targets to shorten patient waiting time

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NHS patients will have a shorter wait to see a specialist under plans announced by Virginia Bottomley yesterday. Hospitals are to be set new targets to reduce the time people have to wait for a first out-patient appointment, the Health Secretary said.

A new maximum waiting time of 12 months for a heart bypass operation is also to be set and new standards applied to the maternity services under an expanded patient's charter. Hospital patients will also be offered better food.

The NHS is regarded as one of the most successful applications of the citizen's charter initiative, launched three years ago. Standards set by the charter have eliminated two-year waiting lists, cut waiting times in hospital and improved ambulance response times. Mrs Bottomley said the charter had changed the culture of the NHS, making it more responsive to patients.

Referring to a survey published yesterday showing that one in five hospitals serves food judged to be poor or very poor by a quarter of their patients, Mrs Bottomley said patients must be given a choice of food, with more or less if they wanted it. She added that patients should not

be forced to eat meals ordered by a previous occupant of the same bed. The survey found one patient who had to eat salad for every meal for four days because of someone else's advance order.

The survey of 24 hospitals by the National Audit Office found that 85 per cent of patients regarded the food they were given as good or excellent, but younger patients were less likely to be satisfied. Hospitals spend between £2 and £15 per patient per day on food, with an average of £5.45, but there was no relation between the amount spent and the satisfaction expressed by patients.

Mrs Bottomley said that health authorities had been required to set local targets for out-patient waiting times since January and most had settled on three months, but there was great diversity between specialties. The national target, to take effect from next April, will be a "firm aspiration" rather than a guarantee and will be decided when ministers have examined the effects of the local targets.

The 12-month target for heart bypass operations was intended as a "backstop", Mrs Bottomley said. Nearly all cases were treated sooner. Labour said yesterday that

1.3 million people were waiting for a first out-patient appointment and accused Mrs Bottomley of presiding over a "web of deceit". David Blunkett, the shadow Health Secretary, said that government claims that more patients were being treated on the NHS had been artificially inflated. A new way of counting the numbers since 1989 had added an extra 800,000 patients to the official figures.

The figures were now compiled on the basis of "finished consultant episodes" instead of the old measure of hospital discharges and deaths, which allowed double counting if a patient saw more than one consultant. Scientists working on gene therapy to combat cancer have been given a £1.25 million grant to find ways to enhance patients' natural defence mechanism against the disease.

The five-year grant from the Medical Research Council will enable scientists at the Institute of Cancer Research, the Royal Marsden and Charing Cross hospitals to pool their resources to find ways of delivering genes to tumour cells to inhibit their growth. The genes are expected to act like vaccines, stimulating the body's immune system.



David Wasley, a stained glass conservator, puts the finishing touches to the restoration of a window depicting William Tyndale, the man who first translated the Bible from Latin into English. The window will be installed in the chapel of Hertford

College, Oxford, where Tyndale was once a student. Scholars believe he was born between 1490 and 1494 and the window is intended to commemorate the 500th anniversary of his birth. The window, which has an original, elaborate mahogany frame,

once belonged to the British and Commonwealth Bible Society, but was put into storage when the society moved from London to Swindon in 1985. It donated the window to Hertford College three months ago and Mr Wasley was commissioned

to restore it at his studio in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The work will be finished in time for a special service of dedication conducted by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, at evensong on April 24.

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Gloucester body search moves on

Police in the Gloucester murder enquiry have moved to another field in their search for bodies. They had been digging near Much Marcle, Hereford and Worcester, where they discovered the remains of a tenth victim in the inquiry. They have now switched to Fingerpost field, about quarter of a mile away. "We are going to search an area 25ft by 25ft and we have reason to search there," said Det Supt John Bennett, who is heading the investigation. An inquest into the deaths opens in Gloucester tomorrow. Coroner David Gibbons will hear identification evidence on nine sets of human remains found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester — the home of builder Frederick West, 52. He is accused of the murders of nine young women.

Wrong move

John O'Hanlon Smart of Hendon, Tyne and Wear, used a manhole cover to smash a shop window then stepped back and fell down the hole. He was conditionally discharged for a year and ordered to pay £669 compensation with £35 court costs by Sunderland magistrates.

Trial scratched

Judge Graham Hume Jones discharged a jury and ordered a retrial of a fraud case at Exeter Crown Court because two jurors complained that a colleague had fleas.

Cabbie stabbed

A cab driver was found stabbed to death after a man and two women asked him to take them to Harlesden, northwest London.

Noteworthy

A £2 banknote from 1798 fetched £17,050 — three times its estimate — at Spink and Son, London.

Doctor's death halts trial for murder

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR found hanged in hospital on Tuesday while awaiting trial for murdering his wife was working 24 hours a day before her death, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Adekola Agbaje, 48, who started his own practice in Portsmouth in 1990, attended call-outs by his patients day and night without a break. Richard Lissack QC, for the defence, said he was also in severe financial difficulty after borrowing heavily to set up the practice.

Last September he apparently attempted to take his own life and in November stabbed his wife Dorothy, 48, at their home in Havant, Hampshire. She died in hospital five days later.

Mr Lissack told Winchester Crown Court that Dr Agbaje thought he was a failure and had let his family down. "He was a man loved by many, especially his wife, and he should be remembered for all the good he has done and not for something he did wrong."

He said the couple met as medical students in Dublin and had enjoyed a happy marriage. As Mrs Agbaje appeared to be recovering in hospital she wrote a note to her husband. It said: "Everything will work out. I'm thinking of you. I love you and I always will."

After her death Dr Agbaje was charged with her murder and was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Wickham. He did not recall the stabbing.

The case against him was closed yesterday after his body was formally identified. Philip Mott QC, for the prosecution, said: "This is a double tragedy and the Crown, after reading three psychiatric reports, would have accepted a guilty plea to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility if it had been tendered."

£25,000 book awards lose their romance

By DANIEL JOHNSON, LITERARY EDITOR

THE shortlist for the £25,000 Betty Trask Awards for "romantic or traditional, rather than experimental" fiction includes three novels that are certainly not romantic. The judges' choice will cause anger among more popular writers for whom the award was intended.

Nadeem Aslam's *Season of The Rainbirds*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Prize last year, has serious literary pretensions: set in Pakistan, its main character is an imam.

After *The Hole*, the brilliant debut of Guy Burt, an undergraduate at Balliol College, Oxford, is an unsettling thriller reminiscent of William Golding's *Lord*

of the Flies. Frances Liardet's *The Game*, another first novel, was described by Sean French in *The Times* as a highly intelligent horror story.

The other shortlisted titles are Colin Bateman's *Divorcing Jack* and *Some Hope* by Jonathan Rix.

The presentation will be made in London on May 12 by V.S. Naipaul, who is not known for popular romantic fiction.

Betty Trask, whose £400,000 bequest funds the prize, open only to writers under 35, wrote 33 novels with such titles as *Beauty Retires* and *I Tell My Heart*. She must be turning in her grave.

Books, pages 36-37

House prices show first annual rise for five years

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

HOUSE prices have risen in every region during the past year, for the first time in nearly five years, the Halifax building society said yesterday.

Prices in Northern Ireland are on average 9.1 per cent higher than they were a year ago; average prices in East Anglia are 4.3 per cent higher; and prices in Greater London are 2.7 per cent higher. The lowest annual rise was in Wales where prices are just 0.5 per cent up on a year ago.

But the Halifax said that despite the strengthening of house prices in the past year, during the past three months house prices have remained generally flat.

While prices rose in London, the South West, Yorkshire and Humberside, Northern Ireland, and the north of England during the past three months, they fell in East Anglia, the South East, Wales, the north-west of England and Scotland.

The Halifax, however, is sticking with its forecast that house prices will rise by about 5 per cent during 1994.

Figures from the Nationwide building society confirm a gradual strengthening in house prices during the past year, but with regional variations.

Prices rose during the year in 11 regions, with annual falls recorded only in Wales and the South West.

Brian Davis, Nationwide's operations director, said: "House prices are usually

relatively weak in the first quarter of the year, and so the slight reductions experienced in some areas are not inconsistent with a stable picture for underlying prices. The general trend is towards a moderate improvement."

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, said that the strongest recovery would be in the South. "The market in the South has borne the brunt of the recession. We expect a slightly better recovery there because of that," he said.

But sellers should not be too optimistic, Mr Kirkham added. "What we are seeing at the moment is a gradual and tentative recovery in the volume of sales, while as far as prices are concerned, the rise is barely discernible. A lot of stock on the market is still unrealistically priced."

Mr Kirkham said that confidence in the market was still lacking. "The economy as a whole also lacks confidence. It could be helped generally if people once again felt wealthy as a consequence of a rise in value of their homes."

The estate agent Halifax Property Services said it was cautiously optimistic about the state of the housing market. A spokesman said that prices were stable and that there was a slight increase in the level of activity in the market — although in Greater London the level of activity was up by 165 per cent compared with the previous year.



Lucy Indrisie, left, Tanya Caridia, centre, and Andrea Blackmore, a trio of would-be Cathys, making preparations for the audition

THEY were cold but each of the 400 young women outside the Old Vic Theatre in London yesterday burst with the knowledge that Cliff could choose her to play Cathy to his Heathcliff (Catherine Milton writes).

Noses frozen red under generous make-up, each believed she would be perfect in the musical of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* that Cliff Richard has backed to the tune of

400 Cathys heed Cliff's call

£5 million and the lyrics of Tim Rice. "I am Cathy reincarnated," declared Harriet Hughes, 26, an actress and gardener from Winchester, who was standing half-way down the queue.

It was disappointing that Cliff was not there at the start of the search for his perfect woman — he left for a

holiday in Portugal yesterday. But he will play a role in the final choice with the director Frank Dunlop.

"Our Cathy must be wild, lovely, passionate, slender, high spirited and under 5ft 10in," said Roger Bruce, one of the singer's staff. He and the musical director, Paul Moessl, sat

through a string of performances of *Everything I Do, The Power of Love* and the like, awarding marks out of ten. Those who get over this first hurdle will be informed on April 25 and asked to display their acting.

Another aide, Bill Latham, was sure the search would reveal new talent. "We have held an open audition because we don't necessarily want — or can afford — a big name."

Veterans unaware of pension rights

By John Young

THOUSANDS of ex-service men who received wartime injuries have failed to claim full pensions because they were unaware of their entitlement, it emerged yesterday.

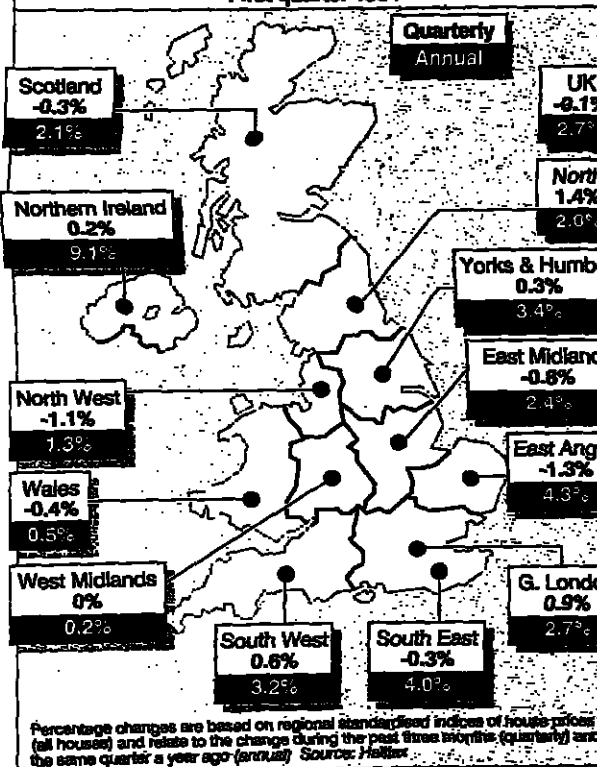
Only in the past ten years have claims for war disablement pensions shown a significant increase, from just over 16,000 in 1985-86 to more than 150,000 in 1993-94.

A Department of Social Security spokesman suggested that many wounded servicemen returning to civilian work after the Second World War did not expect to claim benefits. It was only on reaching retirement age that they discovered their rights.

The Duke of Edinburgh launched the Government's new War Pensions Agency in London yesterday. Based in Fylde, Lancashire, it will provide a service for the 250,000 war disablement pensioners and 50,000 war widows.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said pensioners could now expect a better service. "We can expect significant improvements: faster handling of claims, a more personal approach and better communications," he said.

REGIONAL CHANGES IN HOUSE PRICES



Farmer in show of solidarity with French

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

A DAIRY farmer has become the first British member of a militant French rural body, Coordination Rurale, which campaigns against cuts in farm subsidies by staging street demonstrations, blocking motorways and dumping manure on politicians' doorsteps.

Graham Woolley, 66, who owns a 350-acre farm at Tattenhall, near Chester, said he had sent the French activists a £50 subscription as a gesture of solidarity because they were voicing concerns felt by farmers throughout Europe. But he said that French tactics would not work in Britain. "The French suit my temperament. I like someone who stands up for their corner but I am not declaring war or anything."

Mr Woolley insisted that he intended no criticism of Britain's National Farmers' Union, of which his father, the late Lord Woolley, was president in the 1950s. "I remain a paid-up member and I support the leadership. You could say I am backing two horses in the race — one to go through the mud and the other to go over the top of the ground," he said.

A spokesman for David Naish, the NFU president, said that it was up to each farmer to decide, according to his conscience, which organisations to support.

British teacher vanishes in Africa

By A Staff Reporter

POLICE have launched an international search for a British teacher who has gone missing in Africa. Michael Maude, 56, was last seen in South Africa on his way to Malawi to start a new teaching job.

Since he arrived in Johannesburg on March 27, neither his family nor his friends have heard from him and are concerned for his safety. Mr Maude was due to make up his post on April 5, with his family following later.

Warwickshire Police were asked to help by Mr Maude's wife, Miriam, who lives in Nuneaton with two of their three children. They alerted Interpol.

Inspector Chris Brown of Warwickshire Police said: "Obviously we are becoming increasingly worried by Mr Maude's apparent disappearance. We know that he did go through immigration at Johannesburg so he certainly landed there, but after that we don't know where he's disappeared to. You would have thought that if there was any bother or difficulty Mr Maude would have picked up the phone."

The missing teacher's family have been waiting anxiously by the telephone for any news of the attempts to trace him. One of his sons said: "We are just keeping our fingers crossed that he turns up safe and sound."

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Labour pledges radical reform of party funding

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR Government will force companies to disclose details of donations to political parties. The Opposition, attempting to seize the initiative after a select committee enquiry reached stalemate, also promised to outlaw corporate donations unless they were from a political fund, and restrict the contributions of large-scale investment companies.

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, which carried out the most detailed examination of party funding for nearly two decades, yesterday failed to produce a unanimous report. With Labour and Tory MPs maintaining entrenched positions, the committee resorted to the rare solution of publishing separate reports.

The two groups have fought for months over the report, failing to reach a compromise on fundamental issues such as disclosure of donations and state funding of parties.

The Tory report called for all parties to adopt a code of practice preventing parties accepting illegally obtained money, substantial anonymous donations and gifts from foreign governments and rulers. While the Conservative Party said it would comply with the code, Labour said that it would consider the plan before deciding whether it went far enough. Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory chairman, welcomed the Conservative report, which he said "puts evidence ahead of innuendo".

However, Robin Cook, the shadow Trade and Industry

Secretary, condemned an "immense tragedy" the failure of Conservatives to introduce significant reforms.

While backing Labour calls for state funding of parties, Mr Cook would not place a figure on the likely amount, saying that it would have to be agreed between parties. He said that Labour would insist on ballots of shareholders, possibly every ten years, to maintain a company's political fund, and would allow



Cook: condemned "an immense tragedy"

shareholders to opt out of contributing to the fund. Mr Cook said Labour's plans contrasted starkly with the report by the Conservative group which, he said, maintained "the defenceless status quo".

The Tory members concluded their majority report by conceding that their proposals "are not startling or radical". The subject was an "area where the idea of total transparency is for practical reasons unattainable and, in

principle, even undesirable." Rejecting state funding of parties, the Tory report adds: "We see no reason why parties which have little public support should be either financially dependent on the taxpayer or be able, unjustifiably, to undermine the income of those who enjoy that support."

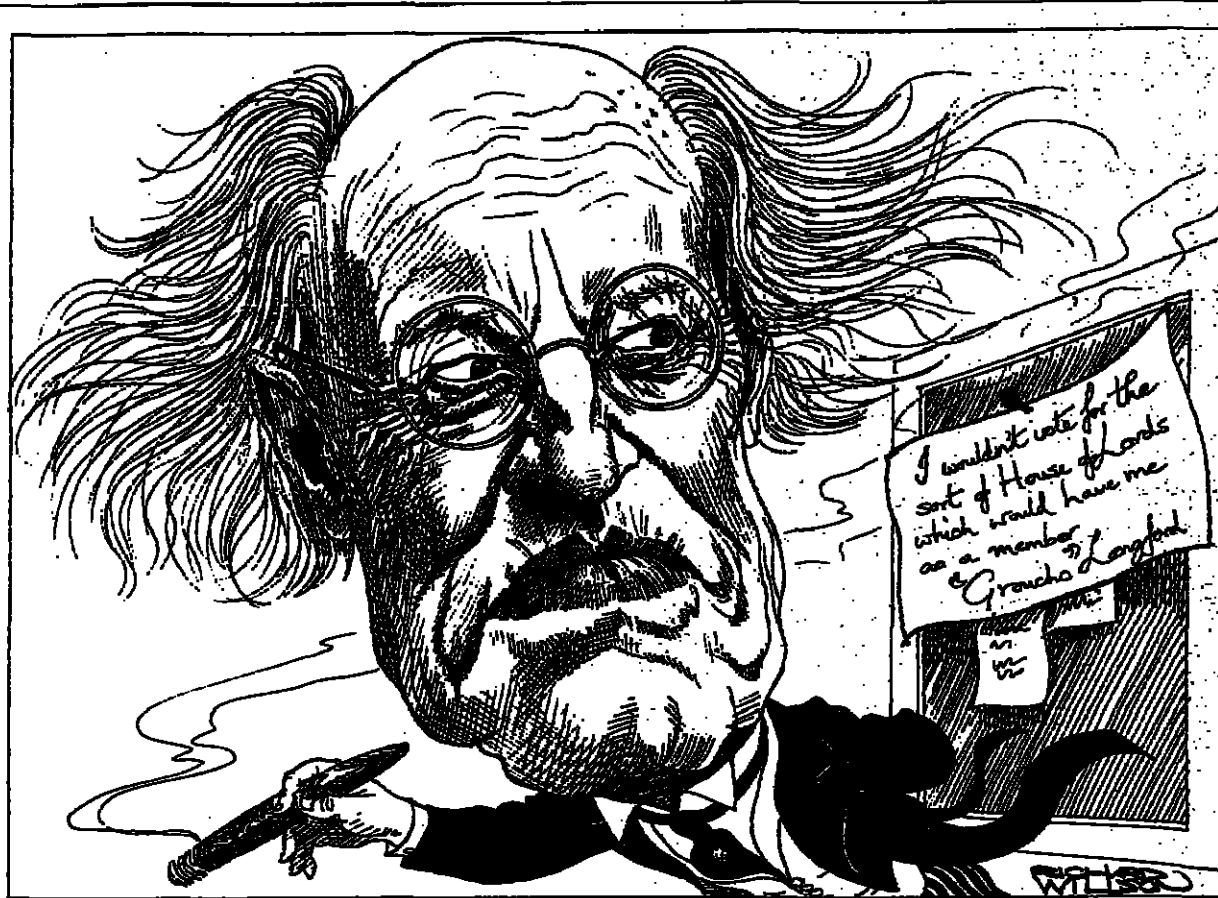
The code of practice contained in the Conservative majority report would also make clear to donors that money cannot buy influence or honours and insist that party accounts should itemise all benefits in kind.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, the committee chairman, said it had been inevitable, since the enquiry was first proposed in 1992, that there would not be cross-party agreement.

The Labour minority report called for any donation over £5,000 to be disclosed, said that industrialists should not be honoured within five years of their companies making political donations, and demanded national limits on the amount spent by parties during election campaigns.

The minority report also demanded an end to the use of 10 Downing Street as a venue for party fundraising events. Officials insisted that there had been no fundraising functions there since 1990. However, they admitted that the Conservative Party could hold functions at Number 10 in the same way as charities and voluntary bodies, provided they paid for catering, staff and other direct expenses.

Peter Riddell, page 16



Lords close ranks against their critics

By ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

IF A Labour Government ever seeks to carry out its policy of abolishing the House of Lords it will find stiff resistance in the upper chamber and be hard pressed to find something better. At least that was the consensus among peers speaking yesterday on their role in the legislature. They do, they argued, an effective job in providing a check on the executive.

Several speakers pointed to the vast range of experience on the red benches. Currently there are four former Prime Ministers, four former Speakers, former Cabinet ministers, plus the law lords and the

bishops as well as men and women from industry, commerce and the academic world. As Lord Hailsham, a former council leader, Tory MP and MEP, pointed out, anyone writing a constitution would not have come up with anything as good.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former law lord, opening the debate, said that very often elected MPs were at variance with opinion in the country. They were career politicians looking to business managers for their advancement. Members of the Lords, on the other hand, were much more independent.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Tory minister, said that since the House of Lords was broadcast, it had not only enhanced its reputation, but had influenced public opinion on difficult and complicated issues. Legislation was scrutinised by "people who know what they are talking about". To those who would propose drastic reform he quoted the words of a former Prime Minister, Viscount Melbourne: "Why not leave it alone?"

The Earl of Longford, a Labour hereditary peer of 48 years' standing, described the composition of the chamber as ludicrous. He suggested an

appointed chamber that retained the traditions of the existing one. Any elected House would be a "second-rate European Parliament", he claimed.

Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker, spoke of the good value the House gave when its running costs were compared with those of the Commons or the European Parliament. But he complained of a lack of facilities not only for members, but for their wives. Some eyebrows were raised — the equivalent of loud protests in the Commons — when he suggested that they should be allowed to use the Queen's robing room.

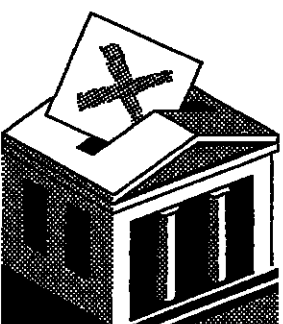
Bottomley 'caught in web of deceit'

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

VIRGINIA Bottomley is caught up in a "statistical web of deception" over patient waiting times and has been grossly distorting the figures, Labour claimed yesterday. Speaking on the day that the Health Secretary unveiled her plans to widen the patient's charter and set new shorter waiting lists, David Blunkett, the shadow Health Secretary, accused Mrs Bottomley of creating a complete sham. He said that 800,000 fewer patients were treated in English hospitals in 1992-93 than was revealed by official statistics. He also said that there were a million more people on waiting lists than Mrs Bottomley would admit.

"While the Government has been playing with the figures, patients have been losing out," he said.

In a Labour document, *Fact or Fantasy*, published yesterday, Mr Blunkett accused the Government of using new techniques for measuring the



LOCAL ELECTIONS 1994

number of patients treated since 1989 which he said added 800,000 to annual figures.

According to Labour, the actual number of in-patients treated each year has not changed since the NHS reforms. Government claims of more patients treated are based entirely on advances in day-care surgery as a result of

improved technology which would have happened regardless of health reforms.

He said no stock was taken in Government figures of the time patients waited for their first appointment with a consultant. "This can take months but the clock only starts ticking for charter purposes after the first consultation," Mr Blunkett said. Labour estimates that there are more than 1.3 million people waiting for a first consultation in addition to the 1.06 million waiting for treatment.

"The Tories set themselves three tests of how they would improve the NHS. These were waiting lists, waiting times and patients treated. On all three tests they are failing. Their changes have been a failure and an expensive one at that," Mr Blunkett said. "We know the NHS changes have meant more bureaucracy. We know that patients find it difficult to get a bed. But every time anybody criticises Mrs Bottomley she tries out the formula that there are more patients treated as a

result of the reforms." He urged voters to take advantage of the local elections to show their displeasure with the Health Secretary.

He said Mrs Bottomley's new charter was worse than useless and that she had been caught on the run by Labour and forced to make up policies, "on the hoof".

"GPs and managers are already having problems meeting tough targets and have often been forced to give priority to urgent cases as their annual budget runs out. They have then been penalised for having to cancel other operations to do so," he said.

Dawn Primarolo, the shadow health minister, added: "Patients know that things are not getting any better but they are treated to a gush of statistics from Government every time they question the success of the changes."

Mrs Bottomley said Labour's claims were just rehashed accusations. "This is true to form. Every time they lose the argument they say the figures have been fiddled."

Watchdog denies 'nepotism'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IAN BYATT, the director-general of the water industry watchdog, Ofwat, defended himself yesterday against allegations that he gave jobs to friends and business contacts and that he was failing to protect fully the interests of water users.

The head of the Office of Water Services faced persistent questioning yesterday by Labour MPs on the Commons Environment Select Committee, who alleged that he selected personal contacts as chairmen of regional consumer committees.

More than 80 Labour MPs have signed a Commons motion calling for his dismissal, but Mr Byatt insisted that all appointments of chairmen were based on merit. He said: "I keep my eyes open and if I see an opportunity for someone who is particularly good I will go for them."

Eastleigh braced for marathon campaign

By JONATHAN FREYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

POLITICIANS and voters in Eastleigh were bracing themselves for one of the longest by-election campaigns in postwar political history as it became clear yesterday that the poll will not take place until June.

With Labour and the Liberal Democrats unofficially starting their campaigns seven weeks ago, the later date means that the 94,000 voters of Eastleigh will have been subjected to well over three months of political bombardment by the expected June 9 date. Paddy Ashdown and John Smith have already held rallies in the constituency.

The Liberal Democrats, favourites to win the Hampshire seat, immediately condemned John Major's decision to delay the vote as political cowardice. Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, said: "It is a disgrace that Conservative fear has resulted in a serious delay to the election of a

representative for the people of Eastleigh." The Liberal Democrats had been hoping for a May 5 date to give them momentum for the June European elections. The party intends to move the date to the by-election in the Commons on May 9 for a poll on June 2, a week before the European elections.

Labour, which effectively kicked off the campaign with a visit to Eastleigh by Jack Straw within days of the death of the Tory MP Stephen Milligan, said the date was "an irrelevance". Marilyn Birks, the Labour candidate, said: "Labour's campaign has already left the other two parties trailing."

Charles Clarke, who acted as Neil Kinnock's right-hand man during the 1992 general election, has been shortlisted as the Labour candidate for the Newham North East by-election. Others shortlisted include Charlotte Adams, parliamentary officer for Union, the public service workers' union.

Memorial service, page 18

CSA 'will push single mothers into work'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SINGLE mothers are increasingly likely to give up living off state benefit and start work because of the Government's controversial Child Support Agency, the Equal Opportunities Commission says today.

The view by the EOC is the first clear official judgment of the longer-term impact on single mothers of the CSA, which has been criticised for causing undue distress to fathers already paying maintenance for their children rather than vigorously pursuing absent fathers who make no provision at all.

The Government-sponsored EOC says there is "every reason" to suppose that the number of single women with dependent children is likely to grow over the next ten years. However, the EOC study, carried out with Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research, suggests that the activities of the CSA will be an important reason in ensuring that single mothers will increasingly come off benefit and begin working.

Currently, only about a quarter of single mothers on income support receive any maintenance from the father of their children. But the EOC's report on the prospects for women's income, prepared for it by the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies, says that the CSA's performance target of achieving benefit savings of more than £500 million this year, coupled with its role of increasing the number of lone parents receiving maintenance, is likely to increase the number of single mothers going into work.

The EOC says, in effect, that because of the tax rules single mothers would be better off taking even low-paid jobs than living on benefit and maintenance payments.

In its report, the EOC also warns women generally about the risks of depending on a male partner's income. It says that increasing male unemployment and the rising number of divorces will pose problems for women who have little or no independent income. According to the EOC, women have on average only half as much independent income as men — using the most recently available earnings figures — £99.87 a week compared to £199.47.

The EOC's report forecasts that by the year 2000 the female labour force is expected to grow by half a million, while the number of men in the workforce will fall by 300,000 so that women will account for almost half the jobs in Britain by the end of the decade. But the commission warns that most of the extra jobs to be taken by women will be part-time — and many of them low-paid and low-status.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister. Debate on Opposition motion on family issues.

Lords (3): Sunday Trading Bill, committee.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

On this day

Continuing the celebration of Emanuel Lasker's victory in 1894 which first crowned him as World Chess Champion, today's game from Lasker's match victory against Steinitz was played exactly 100 years ago on April 14, 1894. In the early part of the match Lasker concentrated on tactically outwitting the reigning champion. As the match progressed, however, Lasker grew in confidence and, as in this game, also began to outplay the champion in simplified situations and endgames.

White: Emanuel Lasker
Black: Wilhelm Steinitz
World Championship, Philadelphia 1894

Ray Lopez

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bb5 d6
4. Nc3 Be6
5. Bxg5 f6
6. Bc4 g5
7. d4 exd4
8. Nxd4 Nxd4
9. Qxd4 Nc6
10. Bg5 Nd4
11. Bxd8 Nxb5
12. Qd4 Qd5
13. Nxb5 exb5
14. Bc7 Rb2
15. Bc6 Bc7
16. c3 Kf7
17. Kc2 Rh6
18. Kb3 Rb4

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Winning Move, page 44



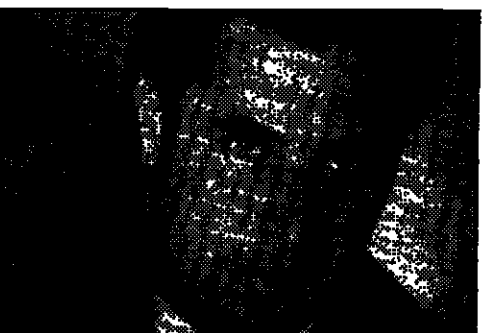
SYKES. WEEKDAYS 5.55PM.
UK GOLD



BEVERLY HILLS 90210.
SUNDAYS 7PM. SKY ONE



THE BODYGUARD.
JUNE PREMIERE. SKY MOVIES



VINCE GILL.
COUNTRY MUSIC TELEVISION



TRIVIAL PURSUIT. WEEKDAYS 6PM
& 10PM. THE FAMILY CHANNEL

FREE

30 HOME TRIAL

NO OBLIGATION



THE AVENGERS. WEEKDAYS 8PM.
BRAVO



GLADRAGS & GLAMOUR.
WEEKDAYS 3.45PM. UK LIVING



WILDSIDE. SUNDAYS 5PM.
DISCOVERY



CLIMAX OF THE F.A. PREMIERSHIP.
SKY SPORTS



BARNEY & FRIENDS. WEEKDAYS 2PM.
THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

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Record-breakers ready to set marathon on its way



Sir Roger Bannister, with Chris Brasher, left, and Chris Chataway will start a field of 26,000 on Sunday

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

SIR Roger Bannister, the first man to run a mile in under four minutes, will be one of three official starters for the NutraSweet London Marathon on Sunday. The others will be Chris Chataway and Chris Brasher, who paced him to his historic success 40 years ago.

The three will start a field of more than 26,000, including the defending champion, Eamonn Martin, other internationalists and a host of runners, who will be attempting to raise millions of pounds for charity.

Sir Roger, whose record will be celebrated with a gala dinner in London on the anniversary on May 6, said of the race, founded in 1981 by Mr Brasher: "It is both an outstanding example of 'running for all' and also the world's largest marathon."

Mr Chataway said: "No one since Adolf Hitler and the Blitz have done more for London's community spirit than Brasher and the London Marathon."

Sir Roger and Mr Brasher said that, in their athletic heyday of the 1950s, only people believed to be physically exceptional ran marathons. Mr Chataway said: "They were regarded as lunatics, totally unhelped. If anybody had told me then that women would complete the race and people would queue

half the night just to enter it, I would have not believed them."

The course of 26 miles and 385 yards will follow its usual route from the start at Greenwich Park, across Tower Bridge and around the Isle of Dogs before going on to Westminster. This year, the finish will be in The Mall, near St James's Palace, rather than Westminster Bridge, which is under repair.

The winners of the men's and women's races will each

earn £35,000, with total prize money being £200,000. David Bedford, the London race director, said: "The whole economic balance of the race is that it is a great international event linked with a festival. One without the other would not survive."

Among the runners are 16 leaders of *The Times*, who have been divided into two teams, one advised by Mr Brasher, and the other by Mel Batty, coach to Martin. There will also be the seven

Edwards brothers from Stoke-on-Trent, who will be raising money for heart research in memory of their mother, Sheila, who died of a heart attack.

Representatives from the Parachute Regiment, competing in full kit and carrying 40lb packs, will be attempting to break the world marathon speed-marching record.

A more entertaining task will be that of Eric Newton from Stoke-on-Trent, who runs and plays the clarinet. His race record is playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" 648 times.

The women's race begins at 9.05am and the elite men's event at 9.30am.

Race favourite, page 38



Bannister congratulated by Brasher, left, and Chataway after his record run

Autumn birth gives football stars a better shot at success

BY NICK NUTTALL AND JOHN GOODBODY

PARENTS hoping to raise a Bobby Charlton, Ian Wright or Martin Peters should plan the birth for autumn.

Researchers have found powerful evidence that children born between September and November are more likely to develop into soccer stars.

A survey of professional football players in the four English leagues shows that more than a thousand out of a total of 2,777 players were born between September and November. Just under 700 were born between December and February, 545 from March to May, and 516 between June and August.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature*, owe little to astrology and more to the age of a child when the school year and soccer season start. Children born earlier in the school year have a physical advantage purely because of their greater age and development, rather than talent. This extra strength makes it more likely for them to be picked for the soccer team, where they can develop their skills and catch the eye of the professional teams' scouts.

The research was carried out by Ad Dudink, a psycholo-

gist at the University of Amsterdam, who believes that the bias in favour of autumn babies could be robbing the game of talented players.

"There is a known relationship between date of birth and educational achievement, implying that the younger children in any school year group are at a disadvantage," Dr Dudink said. "Children who participate in sports are also placed in age groups. My results imply many... may not get a fair chance because of this method of classification."

A *Times* survey of youngsters selected for the Football Association's school of excellence at Lillieshall confirmed Dr Dudink's findings. In the past two years, 29 of the 32 students had been born between September and February, of whom 15 were born in September or October. In the first four years after its launch in 1983, 51 of the 71 boys who attended were born in September, October or November.

Selection for the school is made in February, and only boys who have turned 13 after August 31 are eligible. This inevitably biases selection in favour of boys born in the last third of the year.

The school has been widely criticised for its failure to produce quality players. John Ebbrell of Everton and Mark Robins of Norwich are rare examples of former students who have reached the international under-21 level.

□ The Newcastle United manager Kevin Keegan and his leading striker Andy Cole yesterday launched Race for Peace, a campaign to provide sports equipment for needy children in South Africa. Thousands are expected to raise money with fun runs on June 26.



Wright: Arsenal striker was born in November

Celtic hearts most at risk from disease

THE Scots and the Irish are among those most at risk of death through heart disease, according to a new survey by the Irish Heart Foundation.

In the developed world only the Czechs and Hungarians drink and smoke more, are more overweight and less inclined to exercise. The Scots came third on a table of nations most prone to heart disease. The people of Northern Ireland were fourth and the Republic fifth.

The results of the survey were published in Dublin by Brendan Howlin, the Irish Health Minister. They show that more than

50 per cent of those in the Republic were overweight and 10 per cent were obese. Almost 40 per cent took little or no exercise, 20 per cent watched television more than four hours a day and only one in eight were eating sufficient fruit and vegetables. Twenty per cent of men drank too much alcohol and a third of those surveyed smoked.

Mr Howlin promised that he would soon publish a national health strategy for the Irish Republic. The aim was to improve the overall health of the nation between now and 2000, when the survey would be repeated.

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Hamas suicide bomber kills six in bus attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM AND
MICHAEL BUNYON
IN STRASBOURG

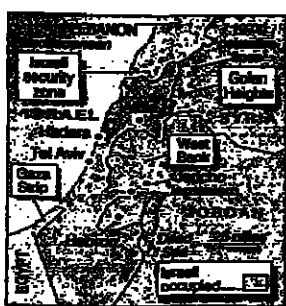
THE faltering peace process in the Middle East suffered a severe blow yesterday when six people were killed and 30 wounded as a bomb ripped through a crowded Israeli bus in the town of Hadera, north of Tel Aviv.

For the second time in a week, Hamas, the militant Palestinian group, demonstrated with ruthless efficiency that it has the capability to wage terrorist warfare inside Israel's pre-1967 borders. Many of the passengers had boarded the bus at Afeka, the Galilee town where seven Jews were killed in a Hamas suicide attack last week.

In two other violent incidents yesterday, a Jewish settler shot and wounded four Palestinian children on their way to school in Jericho. The Israeli army shot and wounded two other Palestinians in the town, including a nine-year-old boy.

Angry Israelis immediately took to the streets chanting "Death to the Arabs" and denouncing the Labour government for making peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. They threatened to continue the deadly spiral of violence which had begun at dawn on February 25 when Arab worshippers

A terrorist struck on the day Israeli forces were due to have completed their pullout from Jericho and Gaza, dealing a severe blow to the faltering peace effort



were massacred in Hebron by a Jewish settler. Hamas claimed yesterday that the bomb was the second of five pre-planned attacks on Jews to avenge that massacre. One of the six dead yesterday was identified as an Arab. He is suspected of carrying the bomb, strapped to his body, on board the bus. It is thought he planted a second device, which had exploded on a nearby bench, before going about his suicide mission.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said he regretted the attack, and the actions of extremists on both sides, but refused to condemn it. Addressing the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, he dis-

claimed any responsibility for preventing Hamas activists. It was the Israeli authorities who now controlled the occupied territories, he said. "Ask me when I am in Jericho."

Mr Arafat noted bitterly that he was speaking on the day when Israeli forces should have completed their withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza, according to the timetable agreed last year. Nine months after the Oslo peace initiative, which resulted in the Washington peace accord signed by the PLO and Israel last year, there had been only "meetings, meetings, meetings" which had yielded nothing so far.

Yesterday's militant actions were timed to cause the maximum emotional response among the Israeli public, coming 90 minutes before stress waited throughout the country and traffic halted for two minutes in memory of the 17,955 Israelis killed in the five main Arab-Israeli wars. According to Israel Radio, 18 of those wounded in the explosion were soldiers, some of whom were travelling to attend the

memorial services on Remembrance Day. As details of the carnage were relayed in radio and television broadcasts, Israelis reacted with anger and revulsion to the attack. "The peace treaty with the Palestinians is a piece of shit," said a tough looking Jerusalem driver virtually in tears. "We should burn every copy and give them the one thing Arabs understand — force," he added.

A live interview with President Weizman, who was defending the peace process, was dramatically interrupted by the loud screaming of an Israeli woman in the hospital that he was visiting. She had just learnt that a close relative had been killed in the bus, which was full of children.

A soldier, travelling to a memorial service for the war dead, including his uncle, said he was near the front of the bus, travelling between Afeka and Tel Aviv with about 40 on board, when there was a huge blast. "The bus filled with smoke," he said. "People began screaming."

The Hadera blast compounded the political difficulties of the government, coming days after it had imposed draconian new security measures, including the sealing off from Israel proper of all the two million Palestinians living under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.



First aid workers attending to an Israeli woman injured in yesterday's bomb blast, which occurred on the day Israel honours its war dead. Angry protesters took to the streets to denounce the accord with the PLO

Rebels penetrate central Kigali

Rwandan exodus baffles aid agencies

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN aid workers are mystified about where tens of thousands of people swarming out of the bloodstained Rwandan capital, Kigali, are heading, as Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels steadily gained the upper hand yesterday in the battle for the capital.

The fighting between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes has made it increasingly difficult for aid agencies to operate in the country and monitor where the refugees have gone. "It is not clear where the refugees are, it is a mystery," Anne-Marie Huby, of Médecins sans Frontières, said. "We have not seen great numbers crossing the border into Burundi, Zaire, Tanzania or Uganda, so they must be displaced somewhere inside Rwanda."

One Western observer said he saw an eight-mile river of people heading out of the capital.

Tony Burgener, of the International Committee of the Red

Cross, said: "It is quite impossible to say where they have gone, though they may be heading south towards Burundi. It is dangerous, but our people are still cruising Kigali picking up wounded." The Red Cross has 26 aid workers in Rwanda, and another five were due to arrive by last night.

The rebels fought their way into central Kigali yesterday and were expected to press on for Gitarama, where the government took refuge on Tuesday, according to John Kemp, of Cafod, the Roman Catholic aid agency.

The rebels entered the city centre from outlying districts overnight on Tuesday and overtook a barrage of heavy fire shortly before dawn. Cafod's sister organisation, Caritas, which is still operating amid the violence of Rwanda, said last night that 300,000 Burundian refugees who are in Rwanda after fleeing earlier fighting between Hutus and

Tutsis there, might now feel forced to return to Burundi, kindling a new bloodbath.

Western troops still in Kigali after organising an evacuation of hundreds of foreigners said government forces were demoralised and ill-disciplined, and had little hope of repelling the advance. "There is heavy fighting in the city but

our forces are based mainly on the outskirts. Most of the strategic hills around the city are now controlled by our forces," said Wilson Rutayisire, an official of the Rwandan Patriotic Front. The rebel leader is Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe, a former Interior Minister.

Red Cross officials said hospitals were flooded with casualties in clashes between the majority Hutus and the Tutsis, once the ruling elite of the former Belgian colony. Mr Rutayisire said the 3,000 rebels around the capital were holding their positions, but that other forces from the 20,000-strong rebel army would soon reinforce them. The latest fighting was sparked by last Wednesday's killing of President Habyarimana, who was a Hutu.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, agreed yesterday that Belgium could withdraw its contingent of 420 UN

peacekeepers from Rwanda. The Belgians are unpopular among the majority Hutus who believe they support the rebels. Dr Boutros Ghali added that he hoped the Security Council would decide to continue the UN troop presence in Rwanda. The United Nations has a peacekeeping force of 2,500 soldiers and observers from 23 countries in Rwanda and the Security Council is due to decide on the mission's future.

Emergency food supplies for Rwanda have been set up in northern Burundi, western Tanzania and eastern Zaire.

Two British teachers, Verity Coates, 29, and Hannah Phillips, 24, were among the last Britons to escape from Kigali on Tuesday.

Canberra: Ralph and Edna Hughes, a newly married Australian couple in their 80s, have been evacuated safely after spending part of their honeymoon in Rwanda. (AP) Letters, page 17



Kanyarengwe: leading rebel onslaught

Buthelezi calls on Carrington to mediate postponement of election

FROM SAM KILEY IN ULUNDI AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

A VIOLENT uprising by Zulu monarchists and supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party which would plunge Natal/KwaZulu into civil war looked a "realistic and accurate" prediction for the near future, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said.

Chief Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, said that he held "very little hope" that talks with the African National Congress and the South African government — which are being mediated by Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Minister, and five other constitutional experts — would succeed.

The difficulties facing Lord Carrington's mission became clear in preliminary talks yesterday when Chief Buthelezi demanded that the date for the elections, scheduled for April 27-28, be put on the agenda.

Inkatha is boycotting the election. The ANC responded that the question of postponement was never intended to be part of the mediation, and the date was "cast in stone".

Chief Buthelezi said in an interview: "The level of distrust that exists between us and the ANC is simply too much to overcome. The ANC is in the hands of the South African Communist Party which is intent of steam rolling and will not allow compromise of any kind." But Dr

Kissinger said yesterday: "The election is an entirely South African matter, and it would be inappropriate for foreigners to take a decision on it... the date of the election must be settled between the parties."

Thousands of Zulus gathered at a stadium in Vryheid, northern Natal, yesterday before marching through the town in protest against the election. Many were armed with spears and axes in defiance of emergency regulations, but no attempt was made to disarm them.

Inkatha and King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus have demanded greater autonomy for KwaZulu and are pressing for a federal South African state. The Transitional Executive Council (TEC) overseeing the move towards the elections, announced yesterday that it was considering extending the voting period in

Natal/KwaZulu and broadening emergency legislation to allow it to "commandeer" KwaZulu government property for use as polling stations.

This was greeted with dismay by members of the Independent Electoral Commission. "To attempt to run polls in a school that has been seized from the KwaZulu government would be a swift way of committing suicide," one IEC official said yesterday.

Chief Buthelezi said that "as a Christian I have always eschewed violence, but the blood of the people is boiling and may soon bubble over". Soon after he spoke eight people employed by the TEC to distribute voter education pamphlets in the Ndwedwe area were killed, allegedly by Inkatha supporters — bringing the toll in the province to 19 yesterday and more than 173 this month.



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Whites implicated in Inkatha death lists

FROM SAM KILEY
IN ESHOWE

NKOSA Dinda, 16, was killed soon after he returned to visit his family following a year in hiding from members of the Inkatha Freedom Party. They were determined to kill him, and they succeeded. He was horribly mutilated.

The crime that put him on the Inkatha death list was his membership of the African National Congress (ANC).

The Very Rev John Salt, a British priest and Dean of Eshowe Cathedral near by, is also on the death list, with four other prominent white people in the town. None of them are members of the ANC. Their "crime", it seems, is to have attended funerals for ANC dead. Mr Salt, a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd Order, is forbidden by his bishops to belong to any political party.

"The only reason I can think of for being on the list is that I preached at an ANC funeral. I was in such a hurry to get to another one, I do not think I could have said very much," Mr Salt, originally from Stoke-on-Trent, said.

Most of the death lists allegedly issued by Inkatha supporters are handwritten and dumped on the streets in Natal/KwaZulu's ravaged townships. In Eshowe, a town of wide streets next to a forest reserve in sugar cane country, the last two lists have been written on a computer and printed. Those whose names appear on the pamphlets are certain they were produced by whites: Zulu names are misspelled; there are appeals to loyalty to "your" King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus, rather than "our" king; and Ida Garthrell, a drama teacher who angered Inkatha by supporting a campaign for a women's day in the

town, is referred to as "fat", which is a compliment to a Zulu woman.

The local police have refused to open a file on the death lists, despite the fact that there have been at least three attacks on people named. Gunmen recently attacked the township home of Zarnokwakhe Mkhize, but he was in Durban, so the killers shot his teenage brothers and a visiting friend. Since the list appeared on March 30, 11 people have been killed and six wounded.

It had been difficult to tie Inkatha to the killings in Eshowe until last week, when a man caught hiding the body of a woman ANC supporter killed earlier was taken to the police. He has since allegedly confessed to being a member of a hit squad from the "Five Rand Battalion". This unit was set up and financed with donations of five rand (£1) from Inkatha supporters and trained in a remote area of KwaZulu.

Repair job delights Zimbabwe 'Bobbitt'

FROM JANN RAATH
IN HARARE

THE staff at the Chipinge district hospital in south-east Zimbabwe do not understand the fuss over John Wayne Bobbitt having his penis sewn back on. A philandering husband here is thrilled with the repair job performed by an overworked, understaffed and rundown Third World casualty department.

The person least satisfied by the affair is Shanangurai Tinawo, 40, the peasant wife of Edward Tinawo, 45, who was jailed on Tuesday for two months for doing what made Lorena Bobbitt the heroine of sexually abused Western woman.

Mrs Tinawo came home one night in January at the Save Valley experimental station in the country's Lowveld region to find her husband in bed with a young woman. She seized a log, knocked him unconscious and fetched a knife from the kitchen. While the other woman was fleeing through the window, Mrs Tinawo set to work on her husband's member, leaving it dangling by a thread.

Six hours and a 40-mile drive to the nearest doctor later, Dr Maurice Bom had stitched it back on. "It was four-fifths cut off and the only part that was all right was the urethra," Dr Bom said. "But it is healing quickly and he will be able to use it again. The patient is very happy."

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Serbs angered by air strikes put United Nations aid workers under house arrest

Gorazde food will start to run out in a few days

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE situation in the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde remained desperate yesterday as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that food stocks would begin running out in the next few days.

Gorazde was reported to be quiet yesterday and the relative peace meant that UNHCR workers were able to make their first assessment since the Serbs began their offensive.

Lyndall Sachs, UNHCR spokesman in Belgrade, said that in the past two weeks 18,000 people had fled to the western part of the city and that many of them were living in burnt-out houses. "They were not able to move into refugee centres because these are now vulnerable to sniper attack," she said. There are 65,000 people inside the enclave.

Meanwhile, the UN is considering sending more British troops into Gorazde as a "bridging force" until Ukrainian peacekeepers can arrive.

All UN humanitarian aid convoys to and through Bosnian Serb territory have been

Tuesday, before the Serbs backed down.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, has tried to downplay the stand-off. "The atmosphere is not at all threatening," he said on Tuesday. "It strikes me as an administrative blockage more than anything else."

Vitali Churkin, the Russian special envoy, continued to shuttle between the Serb headquarters in Pale and the UN in Sarajevo. Mr Churkin said that he had secured a commitment from the Serbs to stop their offensive on Gorazde.

Radoslav Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, wrote to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, to say that since the air raids UN peacekeepers were regarded as "a potentially hostile force".

In Sarajevo, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the co-chairmen of the EU and UN-sponsored International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, returned to the diplomatic stage after more than two months. The conference had been eclipsed by American-led diplomatic efforts which brokered the end to the Croat-Muslim war. Their reappearance may suggest that they have been brought back in an attempt to break the diplomatic stalemate since the Nato bombing.

In Belgrade, the French Chargé d'Affaires protested to the Yugoslav authorities after they announced the effective banning of Agence France Presse, the French news agency, and CNN, the American television station. The Ministry of Information said more bans would follow.

In December the authorities refused to renew the accreditation of Dassa Trevisan, the veteran correspondent of *The Times*. At the time she said: "If they get away with this, others will soon follow."

Brussels: The European Commission took Greece to the European Court of Justice yesterday over its trade embargo against the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia (James Landale writes). The Commission said it would also seek an injunction from the court to force Greece to suspend the embargo immediately to avoid further harm to Macedonia's economy.

Letters, page 17



Bosnian Serbs standing guard over a 500lb unexploded bomb which was reportedly dropped from a Nato aircraft over the eastern Bosnian enclave of Gorazde on Monday. In the second air strike against the Serbs. The town was reported to be quiet yesterday

Italian alliance wrangles over Speakers

Berlusconi expected to lead new Cabinet

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PRESIDENT Scalfaro will convene the first Italian parliament elected under the new, mainly winner-takes-all electoral system tomorrow and is expected to name Silvio Berlusconi as Prime Minister-designate next week.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the caretaker Prime Minister, has indicated he will hand in the resignation of his "government of professors" over the weekend. This will end his role as the technocratic leader steering Italy through its transition from the corrupt old "first republic" to an administration apparently dedicated to realising the aspirations of the Italian "sweet revolution".

Signor Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance, consisting of the media tycoon's four-month-old party, Forza Italia, the devolutionist Northern League and the neo-Fascist National Alliance, won a landslide victory in elections at the end of last month. How long their adventure will last remains to be seen.

Yesterday alliance leaders wrangled over candidates to be Speakers of the two houses of parliament, who must be elected by deputies and sena-

tors. The League wants its men as Speakers, but President Scalfaro has let it be known it would be inappropriate for a politician from the raucous regional protest party to become Speaker of the Senate. Under the constitution, the Speaker takes over as acting President in the event of the death or incapacity of the head of state. The outgoing Senate Speaker, Giovanni Spadolini, may be re-elected to retain the authoritative influence of parliament.

In the chamber of deputies, Alfredo Biondi, the former Liberal Party leader who has thrown in his lot with the National Alliance, is the favourite for Speaker. Experienced parliamentarians with knowledge of the intricate procedures and an authoritative manner are scarce.

In all, 432 of the 630 deputies are taking up seats for the first time, as are 224 of the 313 senators. The quality of the new MPs is largely unknown and there is no guarantee they will be more able than their often corrupt counterparts elected in 1992. The biggest question mark hangs over those elected for Forza Italia,

which was formed so rapidly that there was little time for candidates to be vetted.

A storm erupted within Forza Italia this week when Tiziana Parenti, a former magistrate from the Milan "clean hands" pool of investigators elected on Signor Berlusconi's ticket, spoke of Mafia infiltration, taking up a theme first propounded by the left. "There are names that ring like alarm bells," she said.

President Scalfaro will consult with the Speakers and parliamentary group leaders before naming Signor Berlusconi, 57, as Prime Minister-designate, political sources said.

Antonio Martino, an economist and close adviser to Signor Berlusconi, said yesterday that he expected the new government to be formed quickly. "The programme is under examination by the coalition," he said. The Freedom Alliance cabinet should easily win a vote of confidence in the chamber of deputies, where it has 366 of the 630 seats.

The confidence vote will be trickier in the Senate where

the right does not have an absolute majority, commanding only 155 out of 315 seats. Signor Berlusconi might ask some of the life senators sitting in the upper house to provide the requisite votes together with potential defectors from



Berlusconi: his media interests to be curbed

the centrist Pact for Italy, commentators say. Until last week it was unclear whether Signor Berlusconi could muster a majority. Umberto Bossi, the Northern League leader, accused the media mogul of being a danger to democracy

because of his monopoly over private television through his Fininvest empire. Signor Bossi backed down in return for promises of federalist reform of the constitution and curbs on Signor Berlusconi's media interests. But the League leader said he would bring down the government within six months if the promises are not honoured.

The left-wing and centrist opposition has said that the government does not have the right to change the constitution radically. Even with recourse to a referendum, the outcome would be heavily influenced by Signor Berlusconi's television channels.

Opposition leaders are also worried by the prospect of the heirs of the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini joining a government for the first time since the Second World War. They accuse the right of wanting to renege on the anti-Fascist principles of republican Italy and have called for a huge turnout for Liberation Day demonstrations on April 25.

Signor Berlusconi has not yet said whether he will take part in the rallies.



Karadzic says UN is potentially hostile

suspended and UN staff in the area are now under effective house arrest. Hundreds of UN troops also remained trapped in Bosnian Serb-held territory yesterday, many of them virtually surrounded by Nato air strikes on rebel positions around Gorazde.

In a number of areas, including three of the seven UN weapons collection points, peacekeepers are being kept in their positions by land mines and Serb soldiers. At one collection point armed soldiers tried to take their heavy weapons back and a tense stand-off ensued for several hours on

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THE TIMES

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Neo-Nazi confesses to arson

Bonn: Four neo-Nazis went on trial yesterday for setting fire to a house inhabited by Turkish families in Solingen last year (Roger Boyes writes). Five women and children died. The trial is regarded as a test of the resolve of the government to crack down on far-right groups.

Markus Garmann, 24, confessed to the attack and could face life imprisonment. The other three defendants deny participating.

Christian Reher, 17, who had earlier confessed to arson, withdrew his testimony. He and Felix Koehnen, 16, the son of a doctor, face ten years in jail if convicted. The judges have yet to decide whether Christian Buchholz, 20, is an adult or a juvenile.

EU protest

Strasbourg: European parliamentarians have condemned the lifting of parliamentary immunity arrest and likely prosecution of six Turkish MPs who face charges of encouraging terrorism that could carry the death penalty.

Space for sale

London: Shares are to be offered in Russia's space agency to help head off financial collapse and fund a launch vehicles to improve competitiveness.

Wages of sin

The Hague: A sauna owner who offers wife-swapping evenings has been put into the 18.5 per cent luxury VAT band instead of the normal 6 per cent after a Dutch High Court ruling. (Reuters)

Communist victors of Ukraine's election seek to heal Moscow rift

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN KIEV

THERE are signs that Ukraine is seeking to patch up its rift with Russia following the results of Sunday's parliamentary elections and the incident in which Ukrainian soldiers occupied an installation of the disputed Black Sea fleet in Odessa and arrested three officers.

Ukraine is entering a period of intense political bartering. The communists and their allies won the elections but to gain a majority in the new parliament they will need the support of many independent deputies. Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the democratic nationalist Rukh party, said: "The independents are a swamp in which the two wings of parliament will now fish for support."

The focus is now on presidential elections scheduled for June, which President Kravchuk is trying to delay pending a new constitution. The

communists are likely to press for the elections to go ahead in the hope of replacing Mr Kravchuk with Leonid Kuchma, the more pro-Moscow former Prime Minister.

Preliminary results so far show that 167 deputies are independents, with 113 seats going to communists and their allies and 57 to the nationalist parties. Most of the independents are members of the establishment, collective farm managers, industrial directors and so on. Known informally as the "party of power", most have so far backed President Kravchuk in his attempts to create an independent Ukraine free of Russian influence. Their most notable feature, however, is opportunism, and Ukrainian nationalists fear that many could turn pro-Russian.

As former communist officials, many independents are likely to be sympathetic to the

communists' opposition to radical economic reform, which the "party of power" has blocked for more than two years. Such reform now looks even more unlikely. The inde-



pendents include a few businessmen, but their numbers seem too small to have any significant effect.

To take Ukraine into full membership of the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, as de-

manded by the communists during the elections, would mean a change to the Ukrainian constitution. The communists are unlikely to win the two-thirds parliamentary majority needed for this. The nationalists are likely to call national demonstrations to oppose such a policy, particularly in western Ukraine.

Yesterday a senior Ukrainian diplomat said Ukraine may be prepared to give to Russia the fleet base at Sevastopol and sell most of its share of the fleet to Russia. Sevastopol is in the Russian-dominated Crimea, where support for independence from Ukraine was confirmed in Sunday's elections. The diplomat said the issue may be decided tomorrow during negotiations in Moscow. The climbdown may well be connected to a deal to cut Ukraine's estimated gas debt to Russia by a third to \$600 million (£410 million).

Observers witness discrepancies in poll

BY JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME

DURING the Ukrainian parliamentary elections, Western observers were invited to oversee proceedings and confirm the validity of the result. If my own experience is any guide, there were disturbing irregularities.

There were too few of us for so vast a country. As far as we could ascertain, there was no systematic fraud. But Ukrainian election law allows many opportunities for results to be influenced by cheating or incompetence, or both.

Multiple voting was widespread. A more serious problem was lack of control over mobile ballot boxes, which could be stuffed with many more voting papers than those of the ill and disabled for

whom they were intended. I was an observer in the No.1 constituency in the centre of Kiev, the capital.

When I arrived with my colleagues at one polling station, two of the commissioners there became angry, shouting at us in a violent and intimidatory way. Eventually we were admitted, but as I walked to the table to watch the count, I was grabbed and severely shaken by the chairman of the commission. Before our arrival, the local Ukrainian observers had been ordered to sit along the wall farthest from the table, making it impossible for them to see the count taking place.

The haphazard nature of the count was disturbing enough. Even more disquieting were decisions taken to invalidate

more and more ballot papers at each successive count and recount. Thirty-eight papers were invalidated at this polling station on the grounds that pencil rather than ink had been used to mark the names. The polling commission refused to explain any of the discrepancies. Since only 14 votes divided the two candidates, every vote was significant.

We heard widespread allegations of bribery, including distribution of food parcels to secure votes, and detected a mood of cynicism and apathy and many believe the elections were as orchestrated as were those in the Soviet era.

Jessica Douglas-Home was an election observer for the British Helsinki Human Rights Group.

Antons acci
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ought police

Albee wins third



President's lawyer makes light of new allegations over Whitewater

Clintons accused of suppressing papers

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

AFTER a hush, the Whitewater affair has returned to the public eye with the disclosure of documents showing that Hillary Clinton's involvement in the management of the land company was greater than had been previously thought.

In a further potentially damaging allegation, an American newspaper reported yesterday that the Clinton presidential campaign knowingly suppressed documents showing that the Whitewater company had received several hundred thousand dollars in possibly unauthorised loans from a local savings bank. The Clintons have always said that they were only passive investors in Whitewater, a company they co-founded in the late 1970s to buy land in the

Ozark Mountains in Arkansas, which was then sold as lots.

Jim McDougal, the Clintons' business partner in the venture, sold documents to several American newspapers this week which showed that Mrs Clinton was involved in the running of the company during 1989 and 1990. The records show that several lot buyers sent their regular monthly payments to Whitewater, care of Mrs Clinton at the Rose Law Firm. That contradicts a statement from the Clinton campaign in 1992 that Mr McDougal and his wife, Susan, "exercised total control over the management of the corporation".

David Kendall, President Clinton's personal lawyer, played down this apparent inconsistency. He said the documents "establish what we have previously said. Jim McDougal ran the company during most of its existence. In its later years, as we have said, with Jim McDougal unavailable and Susan McDougal in California, Mrs Clinton by default took certain necessary steps to wrap up and wind down the company's affairs."

The 2,000 pages of documents were released by Mr McDougal for a "handling" charge of \$1,000 (£680). Mr McDougal said the papers "totally exonerate" the Clintons "from all charges that this

is some sort of cash cow or some sort of Mafia front or whatever fantasy the Republicans have been able to create". With that comment he sought to rebut allegations that Madison Guaranty, a savings and loan bank he owned before it went bankrupt in 1989, diverted illicit loans to Whitewater, to the possible benefit of Mr Clinton's campaign.

Mr McDougal's documents did not include details of Whitewater's bank account at Madison, which could have substantiated or refuted allegations that Whitewater received unauthorised funds. The public interest in these transactions arises from the subsequent government "bail-out" of Madison, which cost the taxpayer \$50 million.

The Washington Times reported yesterday that two former Clinton campaign workers, who asked not to be identified, claimed that in 1992 campaign officials had found evidence of transactions worth at least \$600,000 between Madison and Whitewater. One of the officials was quoted as saying that after the discovery, the documents were moved from the Arkansas governor's mansion in Little Rock to the campaign headquarters and then "to destinations unknown".

William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article, page 17



President Clinton making light of his troubles at a media dinner. "I am delighted to be here," he said. "If you believe that, I've got some land in Arkansas I'd like to sell you"

Tokyo leadership candidate tries to evade spotlight

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

TSUTOMU Hata, the Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, has emerged as the most likely contender to become Prime Minister following the resignation of Morihiro Hosokawa.

After days of wrangling following Mr Hosokawa's abrupt resignation last Friday, executives of the seven-party ruling coalition agreed yesterday to work together to select a successor and decide on a new Cabinet.

Both houses of the Diet are expected to vote on a new Prime Minister early next week, after Mr Hata returns from an international trade meeting in Morocco, coalition officials said. Mr Hata, who also heads Shinseitō, a key coalition party, left Tokyo yesterday and will return on Sunday. In typically evasive style, Mr Hata yesterday denied that he would succeed Mr Hosokawa. "This is not under discussion," he said.

However, some senior coalition officials are now openly endorsing Mr Hata. Among them is Keigo Ouchi, the Health and Welfare Minister and leader of another coalition party, who is tipped to become the new chief cabinet secretary.

Mr Hata, like Mr Hosokawa, spent most of his political career in the Liberal Democratic Party before it fell from power in elections last August. A smooth-talking and seasoned politician, Mr Hata

is regarded as the least contentious choice for the parties in the coalition.

However, his close association with Ichiro Ozawa, the former LDP power broker and the deputy leader of Shinseitō, has aroused some hostility within the fractious coalition, which includes Socialists, the Buddhist-backed Komeitō and the conservative Shinseitō. Despite the new signs of

Tokyo: Japan's air force had to spend 100 million yen (£655,000) to inspect training jets after a mechanic fiddled with canopy switches and circuit breakers in a prank at the Mito air base. Inspections went on for eight months before the ground crew sergeant, 21, who might be sued, was filmed secretly as he fiddled with the jets. (Reuters)

accord between the coalition members yesterday, there is still uncertainty about how long this will last.

Another leading contender for the job, Michio Watanabe, a former Foreign Minister and a prominent LDP member, is still reportedly working on plans to defect from the main opposition party to join the ruling coalition. But according to media reports yesterday, Mr Watanabe was considering giving up on his plan due to lack of support.

Anti-PC activists unite against thought police

FROM IAN BRODIE IN BOSTON

CAMPUS activists from around America, sharing horror stories about political correctness, have formed a resistance movement against university speech codes and anti-harassment policies that they say impinge on freedom of expression.

Gathering at Harvard, the 100 conservative students, graduates and professors hailed themselves as leaders of a new revolution. They ratified a manifesto demanding intellectual and academic freedom and an end to ideological conformity. They cheered when their organisers declared that the time may have come to march in open rebel-

lion, chanting: "Hey, hey, ho, ho... Thought police have got to go."

The conference is the latest indication of a growing backlash against the new American orthodoxy. Opponents of political correctness are starting to win in court or even before going to trial. A solid plank in these challenges is the First Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech. The Harvard conference was told

that 383 American colleges and universities have banned speech considered abusive or threatening to minorities, women and homosexuals. However well meaning, the rules are often vague and arbitrary. Even the term minorities is out of fashion; they should be called under-represented groups. In the realm of dubious restrictions, ill timed laughter can be a sin. Verbal conduct, a politically correct euphemism for speech, must not create a hostile, demeaning or offensive environment.

A celebrity at the conference was Eden Jacobowitz, 19, who was threatened with expulsion from a Pennsylvania university for shouting to a group of disruptive women below his dormitory window: "Shut up, you water buffalo." The women, all black, complained that his taunt was a previously unknown racial slur. He refused to apologise or to take part in racial sensitivity training and the complaint was reluctantly withdrawn.

Sex is another PC quagmire. Even asking for a date is tricky at one California college where "unwelcome invitations" can be punished. A Pennsylvania professor of psychology who remarked that homosexuality might be genetic was accused of sexual harassment by a lesbian in his class and spent the next three months clearing his name with university officials.

"In this atmosphere of intimidation, you cannot express yourself as you should without thinking about retribution," said Steve Balch, founder of the National Association of Scholars, an anti-PC group of 3,000 professors and graduates.

Boys held on drug offence

Washington: Two ten-year-old boys were arrested yesterday on charges of trying to sell crack cocaine at a suburban school here. Officials said they were two of the youngest to be arrested for alleged drug selling in the area.

Police alleged that the drugs, worth about £122, were in a bag of one of the boys at their school near Landover, Maryland. They were later released into the custody of their parents. (Reuters)

Shot at school

Butte: A ten-year-old boy, wanting to settle an argument, fired three shots from a semi-automatic handgun at a school playground in Butte, Montana. He critically injured a boy, 12, standing next to his intended victim. (AP)

Historic find

Lima: Scientists have unearthed the skeleton of a prehistoric horse that roamed southern Peru some 300,000 years ago. The find debunks the belief that horses were introduced by the Spanish in the 16th century. (Reuters)

Street fighter

Vancouver: Quentin Jackson, a 77-year-old roller-skater, is launching a protest against Canadian police who have summoned him three times for skating in traffic. He says the law discriminates against non-drivers. (Reuters)

Epic memory

Amherst: Stephen Powelson, 76, a retired auditor, promoting the classics in Massachusetts, is memorising Homer's *Iliad*, all 15,693 lines of it in ancient Greek. So far he has learnt 14,800 lines. (AP)

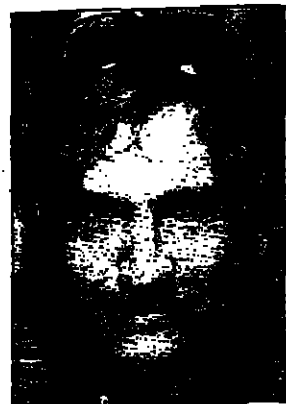
Albee wins third Pulitzer

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

EDWARD Albee, the veteran American playwright, has won his third Pulitzer Prize, signalling a remarkable comeback by the dramatist after nearly two decades of critical humiliation.

Albee, 66, best known for his 1963 play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, won the coveted award for *Three Tall Women*, a biographical play now playing to packed audiences and rave reviews. The award, on Tuesday, comes 19 years after his second Pulitzer prize for *Seascape*. Only one other American playwright, Eugene O'Neill, has won more Pulitzers for drama.

However, the years between Pulitzers were not kind to Albee. While he continued to write a play every 18 months, most re-



Albee: plays received unflattering reviews

ceived unflattering reviews or were ignored. Many regional theatres refused to stage his work claiming it was "old-fashioned".

The playwright was phlegmatic yesterday. "You just have to make the assumption you are doing good work and go on doing

it," he said. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Albee's searing depiction of marital strife, was proposed for a Pulitzer in 1963. But the board preferred not to award the prize rather than see it go to a play considered by many to be shocking and heartless. Four years later he won his first Pulitzer for *A Delicate Balance*.

Three *Tall Women* depicts Albee's adoptive mother, a socialite with whom he had a complex, stormy relationship and who threw him out of the family home at the age of 18. Albee describes the play as a "kind of exorcism".

The Pulitzer prize for fiction was awarded to E. Annie Proulx for *The Shipping News*, a novel about a newspaper journalist. The non-fiction prize went to David Remnick, the *New Yorker* writer, for *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*.

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The social whirl is out for the young musician of the year, Joanna Pitman says



Natalie Clein, the cellist who has won the BBC Young Musician of the Year prize, likes nothing better than a good night in, practising

Natalie Clein plays her cello to the hilt — passionately, classically and unrelentingly. Anything less would be an affront to music itself. With the technical command at her fingertips and an exuberant confidence and poise, she is free to take flight in a performance and luxuriate in her soaring faculties of imagination, emotional drive and intellectual creativity.

It is remarkable then, to discover that Natalie has only just turned 17. This week, she has been forced to plumb new depths of her precocious maturity to face up to the unfamiliar pressures of national celebrity. Last Saturday, after a sensational and — as one judge put it — “incandescent” rendition of a personal favourite, Elgar’s classical cello concerto, she won the 1994 BBC Young Musician of the Year prize and was instantaneously propelled into the pantheon of British musical prodigies. Underneath the hush romanticism of her lyrical performance of Elgar lay a grasp of technical detail of metronomic precision.

Engaging and intelligent, Natalie switches by turns from jaunty and still giddy teenage schoolgirl to long-matured and highly sentient adult musician. Her “dual personality”, she readily confesses, does have its problems. “I find it really annoying actually,” she says. “I’m always treated as an adult in my musical world, but then I’m treated by some teachers at school as a child.”

A giddy round of press and television interviews gave her a taste of what she quickly identified as the superficial side of fame, and sent her scurrying for refuge with her beloved cello back home to Poole in Dorset.

Just one girl and her cello

For Natalie, life without a cello is an unbearable, and unthinkable prospect. “On the few occasions that I have gone away without my cello I quickly start pining for it. I get really depressed if I miss a day’s practice.”

Natalie began playing the violin at the age of four and switched to a one-eighth size cello (about two feet high) just after her sixth birthday. A charming photograph exists among the Clein family treasures of a tiny version of Jacqueline du Pré, seated on a doll’s chair on top of a table, performing gracefully on her miniature cello. By the time she was ten, and already playing a full-sized instrument (though still small enough to clamber inside her cello case to hide), her tiny fingers were beginning to get themselves around major concertos and it was a smooth progression to the concert hall.

Music has always been infused into every pore of the Clein family, due in large part to Natalie’s mother, a professional violin soloist and chamber musician. Her father, an oncolo-

gist of Lithuanian extraction, plays the violin, the viola and the piano. “He practises every night, you know,” confides his vastly more musically accomplished daughter with barely concealed merriment. Her younger sister plays the viola, thereby completing the family string quartet which performs professionally when familial logistics permit.

Another Clein is a firm believer in the theory of musicality as an inherited trait. “As a baby, Natalie used to sleep in the room where I was rehearsing my string quartets. She was taken along with me to rehearsals and performances all the time. As she grew up it became clear that she had an unusually mature insight into music. Who knows just how the miracle of music became part of her?”

You can be sure that the long and hard slog of daily practising played a large role in inducing that miracle. Natalie does not remember any pre-

breakfast routines of scales and arpeggios. Instead, her musical development was more subtly encouraged through playing with her mother for several hours a day.

But ever since she began shaping her own musical interpretations at about the age of ten, Natalie has adopted a highly exacting — and entirely self-imposed — practice schedule. Five or six hours a day is not unusual. Anything less than four hours a day is not enough. Next year she will sit three A levels, classics English and music. Slotting in schoolwork around her considerable semi-professional concert commitments gives her just one full day a week at Talbot Heath School, Bournemouth, supplemented by individual lessons on other days. The spate of performances in places such as Oman and Poland, will further eat into her school days.

On a more prosaic level, Natalie has had to forgo some of the pleasures that occupy more orthodox teenage lives. “Sometimes my friends ask me out but I can’t go because I am practising. I had to give up horse-riding after I dislocated an elbow once, and I have the best excuse never to play hockey or netball.” But like many outstanding musicians, Natalie has the kind of will and gritty focus of mind that has led her to excel in other things. She is a county champion long jumper and swims every day.

Safe among the marvellous clutter of books, sheet music and pictures that fill the Clein family home, Natalie is still shaping her adult poise and philosophy under the guiding eye of her mother. So far she has only received a fraction of the exposure that is bound to come rushing in on her.

Finding love after the years of darkness

Terry Anderson was held hostage in Lebanon for seven years and still bears the scars. But, as he tells

Julia Llewellyn Smith, there have been benefits

It is 6.30am in wet, windy London and Terry Anderson has gone AWOL. The sleepy hotel proprietor, the PR for his book *Den of Lions* and I are knocking on his door and phoning his room, to no avail. A car is waiting outside to take the former Beirut hostage to the airport. He got in to London late last night from New York and was last seen out drinking with John McCarthy. Are the two cell mates sprawled in some gutter? Is Terry out cold on John’s sofa? Where is he?

Just as panic stations are moving into full alert Anderson comes trotting down the road, supremely calm in his raincoat, puffing on a Marlboro light. He had been out to find a cup of coffee, which, as we squeeze into the limousine, spills all over the floor.

“You don’t mind if I smoke?” he asks, like the well-mannered American he is, and lights up the next of several cigarettes. He had stopped smoking in 1985 when he was kidnapped walking home from a game of tennis in Beirut, where he was bureau chief for the AP news agency. Two years later, imprisoned with a Gitane-smoking Frenchman, he started again. He was released after nearly seven years, the longest time served by any Western hostage.

The smoking is the only visible sign of his ordeal. Anderson is 46, stocky, with a sunburnt neck, thick glasses and a toothbrush moustache set above a gap-toothed grin. He seems in good health and excellent spirits. “I have a marvellous life, every day is a joy,” he says.

This is a man who was beaten, who was held in solitary confinement, who spent most of his captivity chained to walls. When he was released he was too weak to open a wine bottle. Is he not haunted by his ordeal? “I have had a couple of flashbacks and nightmares, the usual prisoner’s dream about being sent back.”

Other problems have been overcome with help from RAF psychiatrists. For a while, Anderson could not be in the company of more than a few people and could not stand noise. “I still don’t like loud voices or loud noises and I fidget terribly. I have to pace around when I talk or think.”

Overall, however, things have worked out fine, thanks mainly to a conscious effort to eschew anger or bitterness. “Maddy pointed out the other day that we couldn’t have any of the happiness if we held on

to the rage.” Maddy is Madeleine Bassil, Anderson’s wife of a year, and the mother of his eight-year-old daughter Sulome.

When Anderson was captured the couple were engaged and Madeleine was six months pregnant. Videos of Sulome shown on Lebanese television sustained Anderson through his captivity. Today the couple are “deeply in love.” “I don’t know how many men can look at their wife and know that she loves him absolutely. This beautiful woman waited for me for seven years,” he says.

This confirmation of love is just one of the unexpected bonuses to emerge from the suffering. When Anderson was released, his sister Peggy Say said he was a different

biography of Yasser Arafat. He is involved in local politics and sits on the board of the Committee to Protect Journalists. None of this would have happened were it not for his kidnapping. “I have had this opportunity to do so many things things that I wouldn’t have become involved in and I have to say it’s a lot of fun.”

Unlike some ex-hostages, Anderson has no problem with the fame that has been thrust upon him. “It opens doors, there are people I can talk to and things I can do.” He has not, however, suffered from press intrusion like the British hostages John McCarthy and Terry Waite. “Were I in those shoes I would have a lot of different things to say.”

Anderson’s mentions of personality clashes, especially with TW, as the other Terry was known, have been seized by the press. “I don’t understand why they have it in for TW. Any men squashed together like that are going to fight. They ignore the things I said about his courage and his strength and the fact we still like each other. These are people who know me more than anybody else in the world. You would think we would hate each other and we don’t, we gained an awful lot more from each other than we lost.”

We are arriving at the airport now, and there shivering in the cold is TW. They are flying to Liverpool, to appear on *This Morning*. “Terry,” booms Terry. “It’s good to see you. You’ve lost weight.” The men hug. “Do you think so?” asks Anderson. “I think I’m gaining, Maddy says I have to do something about it.” “You look every bit the senator in that suit,” says TW. They walk to the six-seater jet, shouting against the wind. “My beard’s got greyer,” says TW. “That’s why I don’t have one,” his friend replies.

They could be any two middle-aged men, reunited after a year or so, ordinary men just as they were before history intervened. Squashed in the tiny plane, Anderson says “People always say they couldn’t have done it, but we did what we had to do. You didn’t have a choice, you did what was necessary to survive and when people do that they do it with grace and dignity.”

● Terry Anderson and Terry Waite will describe their experiences at the Times/Dillons Hostages Forum in Bloomsbury, London, tonight.



Anderson: “I have a marvellous life”

Terry, one she liked better. Was she right? Anderson laughs. “I hope so. Being locked in a room, side by side with seven other men, you quickly learn what it is about you that irritates them. We had a fair amount of what you would call confrontational therapy.”

Anderson had rediscovered his Catholic faith shortly before he was captured. Imprisoned with Father Martin Jenco he made his first confession in 25 years. “I was not a good man — chasing women, drinking. Seems like I kind of lost my way for a while,” he said then. He had seven years to think about his faith and his failings. “I have tried to work on some of my faults and become a better person. Before I was captured I was a marine and a journalist. I dashed around and didn’t do much heavy thinking.”

Now, he radiates tranquillity. He has quit the AP and is working on a book to expand on some of the spiritual themes of *Den of Lions*. He hopes to write a second, possi-

Never agree to be on TV

When the cameras roll, the public invariably make fools of themselves

But you can’t help worrying. Those of us who still retain a vague idea of shame — tugged by empathetic horror when, for example, Clive James abuses his satellite interviewees to gales of audience laughter — worry that the participants in real-life entertainments will suddenly wake up, realise what they’ve done, cram all their fingers in their mouths, and be obliged to live quietly for the rest of their lives in a small ladder next to the back door.

People are regularly stitched up by television. They agree to appear because it’s their great opportunity to grab the allotted 15 minutes of fame, and then they do precisely what’s required of them because, puppy-like, they want to please the crew and make the programme a success. Only afterwards, when the release forms have been signed and the producers have scurried, do they realise they have no control over how they will appear, and are now alone to live with the consequences.

Few have screamed so loudly about this treatment as Noeline Donaher, the Sydney housewife set up as the woman you love to hate in last year’s fly-on-the-wall documentary series *Sylvania Waters*. In her plucky book *The Sylvania Waters Diary* she described what went on: “Now the ‘washing the hair’ segment. The crew said something like ‘Let’s have a

little fun; make Michael wash his hair, and in the spirit of the moment Michael and I did just that. But who was really interested in Michael washing his hair? The crew again said that they were only filming something to keep themselves awake.”

Viewers will remember the scene of head-banging comic violence that resulted, and will admit that it was vivid and effective. But the point is that such look-at-the-nasty-lady film-making can be justified only so long as everyone involved (including the viewer) genuinely believes “No

worries, Noeline can take it”. The producers of *Sylvania Waters* didn’t give a damn about all that. Noeline couldn’t take it. “Never ever let a film crew do a documentary on you,” she writes. And the sad thing is, people need telling.

In *From A to B*, it was quite clear from the variety of shots, the flawless straight-to-camera performances, and the necessity for the drivers to pretend to drive while towed by trucks, that these people were made to behave — and feed — like film actors.

Something very strange and alarming happens when a camera is pointed at us; we strive to be interesting, at the expense of being true to ourselves.



LYNNE TRUSS

Taking GCSE or ‘A’ Level?

My name is Dr Peter Smith and for seven years I have worked as an examiner for three different examination boards at GCSE, GCE ‘O’ and ‘A’ level. I must have marked thousands of exam papers and I saw with depressing regularity that many candidates were losing marks simply because they did not know what the examiner was looking for nor how they should answer the questions properly.

Having used marking schemes and having been instructed on how to mark exam papers, I came to realise that this information could be of immense value to anyone sitting these examinations. So I decided to write a guide, “GCSE & GCE ‘A’ Level Examination Tips & Hints”. In this guide, I tell you:

- How you can help your examiner to be positive about your papers.
- How you can encourage your examiner to give you whole marks and not just halves.
- How much to write... and, even more important, what not to write.
- How to answer essay questions and questions involving calculations.
- How exam papers are marked.
- How to use your time in an examination to pick up extra marks.
- How to structure your revision.

I believe that the hints given in this guide may improve a candidate’s results by 2-5 marks. This may not sound like much, but it could mean the difference between a ‘D’ and a ‘B’ at A-level. Of course, there is no substitute for hard work and you can’t expect to get marks from nowhere, but you can present what you know in a way that is very likely to pick up those vital extra marks. Order your copy of “GCSE & GCE ‘A’ Level Examination Tips & Hints” direct from my publishers and save. To order, send your name, address, the book title and your payment (cheque or Visa/Access) of £12 which includes postage and packaging to: Carrell Ltd, Dept. exa, Alresford, or Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery.

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The danger of a drinker with a pint glass in his hand... lifestyle and the spread of meningitis... can hair dye be a killer?



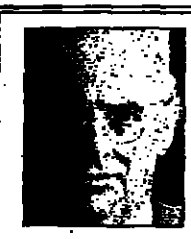
IF YOU visit a pub in one of our rougher areas tonight, it might be as well not to stand next to a man drinking out of a straight-sided pint glass. Statistics show that drinkers who use such glasses are three times as likely to use them as weapons as people who drink from tankards.

Taken in moderation — that is to say about 1.5 to 2.5 pints a day — the contents of the beer glass are likely to prolong life and to contribute to health. The same cannot always be said for the glass itself.

Jonathan Shepherd, professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, reports that between 3,400 and 5,400 offences are committed each year in which a glass is used as a weapon and the incident is reported to police.

Surveys of casualty departments in Bristol and south London reveal

Beware the straight man



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

that the most commonly used weapon in these districts is not, as one might suppose, a knife or club, but a straight-sided one pint glass.

The injuries following these assaults are not trivial. It is estimated that six months after casualty treatment, 75 per cent of those who have been attacked will still have either noticeable or very noticeable facial deformities. Faces are not the only part to be injured by broken glass — in some cases hands are cut and tendons severed when they have been held up to

fend off a blow. Most hand injuries are not caused in pubs, however. The damage most commonly occurs during washing up. The British Association of Hand Surgeons reports that in a single three-month period during 1987 more than 200 people needed treatment for this reason. Another research survey shows that 40 per cent of bar workers have at some time cut their hand seriously while washing up or stacking glasses. Casualty officers and surgeons stitch and mend as well as they can

— but their results show that the majority of victims who have had a glass broken in their face will usually be permanently marked. Some people suffer disfigurement but others sustain irreparable damage to their eyes.

Professor Shepherd suggests that preventative action needs to be taken. The normal, straight pint glass shatters in a way in which the broken end is left jagged with corners as sharp as razor wire. However, glasses can be made from toughened glass which the makers claim is at least two or three times less likely to break on impact than standard glass. One survey suggests that toughened glasses are six times stronger than normal pint glasses.

About 40 per cent of bars now use toughened glasses which, even if they do break, tend to shatter into oblong fragments, with blunt angles like those from a broken car windscreen. If Professor Shepherd's campaign is successful, all pub glasses will be made of toughened glass, and will be appropriately marked to show that their manufacture complies with safety standards.

Smoke risk



THE chance of developing meningococcal meningitis is not high but the disease is so horrifying that anything which increases this risk commands attention. This month's edition of *Epidemiology and Infection* publishes evidence derived from a study in Gloucestershire conducted by the London-based Communicable Diseases Centre in which the incidence of meningitis among 74 children was related to lifestyle of their household.

A strong association was noted between having parents who smoked and the risk of developing meningitis. If a parent smoked more than 30 cigarettes a day, a child under five was seven times more likely to suffer meningococcal meningitis. The risk was very nearly tripled by having a parent who smoked ten to 20 cigarettes daily.

Other factors which would be

expected to reduce a child's resistance to infection — or facilitate the spread of bacteria between children — were also uncovered but their influence was not as marked as that of living in a household made smoky by cigarettes. It seemed that having parents who argued — or were involved in court actions or other legal disputes — reduced the child's resistance to the meningococcus, as did moving house. Overcrowding and a house with a dusty atmosphere apparently spread the disease more readily. Presumably such conditions also increased tension and lowered a child's resistance.

Do or dye



DR Stuart Bingham will dye his hair bright red this weekend so that his patients from the East End, who are also his sponsors for the London marathon, will be able to recognise him on television as he runs his race in aid of the

Dockland Settlement. The marathon can be relied upon to inspire controversy. For those who are already healthy and have trained seriously running in it is unlikely to do lasting damage to the cardiovascular system.

It may, however, expose any weakness in the heart, whether from degenerative disease or recent infection. Heavy exercise produces excessive wear and tear on the knees and feet, and to a lesser extent spine and hips.

Dr Bingham is, perhaps, sensible to have decided to dye his hair red rather than black. Recent American research reported in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* has shown that the prolonged use of black hair dye carries with it an increased risk of developing, and dying from, non-Hodgkins' lymphoma and multiple myeloma. The Americans compared the records of more than half a million women. The good news which came from the survey was that the chance of being affected by other malignancies did not seem to be increased by dyeing the hair — whatever the colour chosen.

A dance of the deaf

Can an addiction to aerobics damage your hearing?
Kate Muir reports on disturbing new evidence

THE obsessive pursuit of high-impact aerobics has been heavily criticised recently for causing joint and back pain. Now a new risk has been added to the list — inner ear injuries — caused not so much by the throbbing funk and high-energy music played in aerobics classes, but by the bouncing up and down on hard surfaces.

A report in the *Journal of Sports Medicine and Fitness* says that the daily jolting may displace tiny granules in the inner ear which stimulate the hair fronds that pass sound impulses along the nerves to the brain.

The symptoms of inner-ear damage can include anything from loss of balance, dizziness, motion sickness and ringing in the ear, to hearing loss at high frequencies.

High-impact aerobics means the exercisers often have both feet off the floor, and the classes tend to be tougher than low-impact or step aerobics, where one foot is always on the ground. High-impact classes also seem to attract the more obsessive exercisers, who work out five to seven days a week.

Dr Michael Weintraub, a clinical professor of neurology at New York Medical College, tested the ears of 30 otherwise

healthy women who took high-impact aerobics classes several times a week, and complained mostly of problems with balance. Aerobics teachers, who may be demonstrating the moves in at least two classes a day, had the most serious ear damage — 83

Exercise addicts complain that their day would be ruined if they had to stop

per cent of the instructors had difficulties hearing high-frequency sounds, compared to 67 per cent of regular exercisers. A majority also had tinnitus — ringing in the ears — which may also be caused by the loud music.

The problems had developed a few years after the women took up the classes, although one started having symptoms within less than a year. Two women who had

slight hearing loss found it began to get worse after regular aerobics.

In four out of five women who stopped exercising, the problems have remained for up to a year, indicating the damage could be permanent.

Dr Weintraub found that once the otoliths, the delicate granules in the ear, were knocked from their natural position, "they don't go back and therefore continue to send the wrong signal to the brain", he told *The New York Times*. He pointed out that the American astronauts who had the worst motion sickness have been found to be those who exercised regularly by running.

Although runners were not included in the study, Dr Weintraub says he is starting to gather evidence on other sports which jolt the body, such as long distance running and volleyball, and suspects they may also damage the inner ear.

Some of the women with balance problems refused to give up aerobics and seemed addicted. "Participants get a lot of satisfaction from the activity — an endorphin high," said Dr Weintraub. "They say that their day would be ruined if they had to stop."

The newly-named "exercise bulimia", an addiction to



An exercise in danger... aerobics classes like this can result in loss of balance, dizziness and hearing loss at high frequencies

working out, is increasingly being seen by doctors who deal with sports injuries. Hard exercise is used by women as a good way to deal with stress, and it is often not clear to doctors whether starvation or over-exercising is causing these women to lose their periods, but the patients tend to be unmanually thin.

Dr Peter Bruno, a board member of the American Col-

lege of Sports Medicine, says that when women initially start exercising, the psychological and physical results are so good that they think "more is better". Then they end up exhausted, with strained muscles, stress fractures and, if they take high-impact classes, balance problems.

The outlook for aerobics instructors is not encouraging: aside from ear problems, a survey in *The Physician and*

Sports Medicine shows that 75 per cent of high-impact instructors are injured, and almost a third of those have shin problems. Students averaged a 44 per cent leg injury rate.

American Fitness, the magazine for aerobics instructors, suggests the following should be heeded by exercisers as warning signs of ear problems: ringing or a feeling of fullness in the ears; imbalance, especially after exercise;

progressive dizziness or vertigo; and uncomfortable sensations in certain positions.

Bouts of light-headedness can have other causes, such as working out at, say, lunchtime, without having eaten that day. Taking birth control pills and large amounts of aspirin can also cause slight dizziness, and women in the early stages of pregnancy may feel faint and off-balance. Of all sports activities,

aerobics performed in skintight leotards before a wall of mirrors encourages a certain narcissism. "Classes can be alienating, and the competition is over body-shape rather than the skill involved in, say, tennis or squash. Gyms are already replacing many of their high-impact classes with low-impact, step or even boxerobics, noting that another excess of the 1980s has come to a nasty end.

Doctors who listen hard will make better diagnoses, says Dr Kieran Sweeney

Stop, look and listen

"But it is serious, doctor?" The middle-aged patient was consulting me because she had had two nosebleeds within the previous 24 hours. "Oh goodness me, no," I replied. Looking back, this was just a shade too hasty and patronising. Although the patient was correct, my answer was far from satisfactory for her. Some 48 hours later, she consulted again, with a further bleed from the same side of her nose. Satisfying myself that physical examination revealed only a small bleeding point in her right nostril, and ordering some tests to ensure that there was no abnormality of the blood's clotting factors, I failed again to sense the true meaning behind her words. It was only with her fourth consultation, a week later, that

I began to realise that we did not share the same perception of her symptoms. She explained that she had not felt well since the bleeding episodes. Sensing the gulf between us, I asked if she believed these episodes were serious. She did, and with good reason: her father had had cancer of the nose and pharynx. After a long period of ill health, he had died from a catastrophic haemorrhage from the mouth and nose, which she had witnessed. To me, her symptoms represented no more than a weak blood vessel in the nostril. To her, they were harbingers of an infinitely more sinister nature.

Such misunderstandings in the surgery are far from uncommon. As consultations between patient and GP are the cornerstone of good health care, how can doctors improve their communication?

Obvious though it may seem, the first principle is to let patients talk without interrupting them too often or too early. GPs are unlikely to elicit all their patients' symptoms and fears if they do most of the talking. (One American study found patients were interrupted within 18 seconds of starting to explain the reason for their visit.) Most doctors would

probably feel faint at the prospect of their most garrulous brethren being given free rein in a busy surgery, but the evidence is that allowing patients to talk freely adds, on average, only just over a minute to most consultations. In the long run, it probably

saves time by reducing the need for further consultations. Another American study found that patients with high blood pressure, who had been allowed to express their concerns in consultations without interruption, were able to control their symptoms much better.

As well as listening, it is important that doctors and patients agree about the nature and severity of the complaint. Dr Barbara Starfield, a specialist in primary health care at Johns Hopkins University in America, has shown that when there is such agreement, patients get better quicker. They are more likely to follow advice, to comply with treatment and to keep follow-up appointments.

Doctors also need to understand and discuss the patient's perspective of his disease and its treatment. This is likely to

be quite different from their own. A patient presenting with all the symptoms of gall stones, for example, will be a routine case for the doctor. Diagnosis is usually clear cut and the doctor will give a swift reassurance that investigation and treatment are available and that the complaint is not life threatening. However, such reassurance could seem misleading to a patient who has to undergo cholecystectomy (to X-ray the gall bladder) and probably suffer months of intermittent but serious discomfort while waiting for an operation. Discussing just what is involved will help to prevent misunderstanding and dissatisfied patients.

It can help patients if they are assertive during a consultation, asking detailed questions if necessary. One study found that a group of patients with diabetes who were taught to be more assertive in questioning their doctor about their disease were found to manage their condition better than those who were not. Significantly, however, the doctors in this study were uncomfortable about the greater degree of control these patients exercised during consultations.

But it is in doctors' as well as patients' interests to improve communication: for one thing, many medical lawsuits arise from misunderstandings; for another, time is saved in the long run. Above all, talking means that patients will go away feeling more satisfied, and will get better quicker, or be more able to manage a chronic complaint. And I could have spared my patient with nosebleeds her worry. Dr Sweeney is a GP in Exeter

I in 5 suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome



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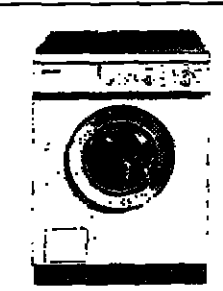
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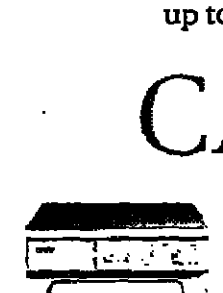
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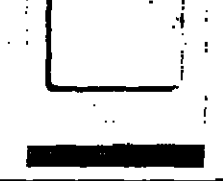
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Janet Daley



Of course susceptible minds are influenced by violent videos — but proof of this is unnecessary

I cannot recall any two days in which more nonsense has been talked. And the subject was one on which any sane person should take no more than 60 seconds to reach the right conclusion. Which is, that it is a bad idea to flood every high street with glossy marketed nihilistic violence in which sadism is presented as a form of entertainment.

The arguments against this proposition have progressed beyond the unconstructed "no-censorship, no-way" dictum of the 1960s. Or at least, there are very few apologists who will argue for that view in open debate. Whenever we attempt to recruit witnesses onto *The Moral Maze* to defend it, we encounter an epidemic of previous engagements.

But that does not mean that the position is dead. The rule that absolute freedom is an absolute good, is too deeply embedded in our idea of liberal democracy to be dispelled even by the caricatures of "free expression" which line the walls of video shops. Some of the objections to David Alton's amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill were motivated by sheer greed — the home video industry is hugely profitable and most of the money it earns for itself and the Treasury comes from the garbage end of the spectrum (lovingly known in the trade as "the moron market").

But most of the sillier criticisms were renditions of the artistic-freedom argument. Which is to say, they took it as beyond question that anything which was recorded on film or video tape and placed on the market was, ipso facto, a work of art entitled to the same protection as a Shakespeare play. And further, that since these "art" objects, simply by virtue of having been made, were now sacred, the onus was on anyone who wished to ban them to give a damn good reason why.

Hence, the well-meaning but inevitably futile attempts to prove that watching violent videos causes violent behaviour. I have written this so many times that I am bored with saying it but readers please bear with me — it clearly needs to be said again. It is not — repeat, not repeat, not — necessary to prove some mechanistic causal connection between an individual child watching certain videos and then committing particular acts. Whether or not the boy killers of James Bulger actually saw *Child's Play 3* is quite beside the point: although the fact that one of them came from a home in which a parent was addicted to such films is not.

Contrary to received liberal opinion, I believe there is less confusion on that point among the general public than is often thought.

The demand for hard scientific evidence that seeing Film A directly produced Behaviour B, is not just pointless, it is logically nonsensical. Human personality and inclinations do not work like pulleys or hydraulic machines. What ever forms and incites the emotions — particularly of the very immature — does not operate like one well-aimed billiard ball causing another to move.

What is wrong with perverting children to grow up in a culture steeped in gratuitous sadism is that the idea of torture-for-fun is normalised. The boundaries of what is thinkable are enlarged by well-crafted, utterly convincing depictions of an infinite variety of inhuman bestiality.

What would have been outside the scope of any but the most demagogical imagination becomes commonplace. And because films are acted by real people, their activities become part of the furniture of reality to the impressionable. Of course, not everyone is so impressionable. That is why the report released this week by the Policy Studies Institute which states triumphantly that the viewing habits of young offenders are no more execrable than most people of their age, is neither here nor there: it is the unstable (and the borderline) youth who may be inspired to imitate these wonderfully inventive scenarios while his peers are only coarsened. And so the absolute freedom brigade argues that it is foolish to ban the videos when sociopathic behaviour is clearly part of a much larger picture of disadvantage etc. etc. (Because banning any video — however repulsive and crassly manipulative — must be defended as if it were an original draft of Dante.) Of course, being susceptible to malign influence is much more common among the deprived. So is drug addiction. But that does not stop us from banning the sale of heroin.

What is wrong is the idea of 'torture for fun' being normalised

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Is the Home Secretary's last-minute conversion what really likely to achieve what sensible people want? Confidence is not inspired by the "relief" expressed by James Ferman of the British Board of Film Classification, who seems to feel that only now will he be free to use his discretion. His claim that, under the original Alton wording, he would have been forced to ban *Schindler's List* because it presented inappropriate role models for children, beggars the imagination. A good deal of this confusion would disappear if half of the protagonists could admit that what they were defending has nothing to do with freedom and everything to do with exploitation.



PIECES PROCESS

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A trapped president

The sheer weight of scandal has left the White House practically powerless

Bill Clinton is the eighth President of the United States since 1960; each has been the most powerful man in the world of his time; four have been Democrats and four Republicans. Only one of them, Ronald Reagan, managed to serve two full terms in the White House. One was assassinated; one was forced to resign; three were rejected by the voters; one decided that he was too unpopular to face the voters. The statistical probability is therefore that Bill Clinton himself will be another one-term President like Jimmy Carter or George Bush.

At present he is trying to defend himself against the most serious public accusations since Watergate in the early 1970s. One of the lessons of Watergate was that multiple enquiries, by different authorities, into different allegations, make it extraordinarily hard for a president to conduct his defence. Another was that such an investigation makes it almost impossible to conduct normal business in the White House. These scandals are very dangerous, very damaging and have nothing to do with natural justice.

Until recently *The New York Times*, which is still the most influential newspaper in America, remained sympathetic to President Clinton and was reluctant to credit the scandals. *The New York Times* is a liberal Democratic newspaper with a political agenda much the same as the Clintons. That makes their leading article, "Whitewater and the Press", published last Monday, all the more significant. The article notes that America is in "the backlash phase" of the scandal, when politicians are blaming the press for "a feeding frenzy". However, it comes to a conclusion which must alarm the White House.

"It is impossible to make any responsible journalistic argument for looking the other way. Mr Clinton's supporters have every right to believe that nothing improper was involved when Mrs Clinton went into the commodities business under the tutelage of a lawyer for Arkansas's biggest agribusiness firm; or when the Clintons' campaign and real estate funds were passing through a sloppily run S & L owned by a key political supporter. They even have a right to condemn the attempted politicisation of law enforcement and regulatory agencies and the disinformation efforts of the Clinton press operation.

"But for any journalist or news organisation to be swayed by those arguments would be to abdicate responsibility. This page has argued from the beginning that the White House's most effective strategy would be fast, full disclosure. The White House has not adopted that advice. Until it does, there is a role to be played by Robert Fiske, the special prosecutor, by Congress — and by the press."

From a hostile newspaper that would be damaging; from the most powerful of friendly newspapers it is almost a judicial recommendation to, convict. To many people in Britain and some people in America, this will be surprising. Yet the allegations have mounted in a most extraordinary way. Almost every day the US television news has been carrying a new Whitewater story; this week has already seen the White House admission of underpayment of tax on Hillary Clinton's commodity deals, to which *The New York Times* refers.

William Rees-Mogg

What are the charges? Hardly anyone could now provide a complete list, but they include many different allegations. The Whitewater Company was a front to transfer funds to the Clintons or launder campaign funds. Hillary Clinton, as a lawyer, falsely claimed to federal regulators that Madison Guaranty — associated with Whitewater — was solvent. There was improper White House influence used to block criminal referrals on Whitewater.

Hillary Clinton's successful commodity speculation, which turned \$1,000 into \$100,000 inside a year, was really a concealed gift, designed to win favour from the Clintons. David Hale has recently pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the government in arranging a \$300,000 small business loan to James McDougal's wife (James McDougal ran Madison and was the Clintons' partner in Whitewater). The loan was supposed to be made to "a socially disadvantaged business". Hale says

that Bill Clinton pressed him to do it. A story in the *Chicago Tribune* suggests that Hillary Clinton, as a lawyer, was improperly involved in the settlement of a claim by the government against Dan Lasater, an Arkansas bond-dealer friend of the Clintons, who has been convicted of major drug offences.

The sexual allegations are probably less important, though they include allegations by several women, by state police, and one particularly unpleasant charge of sexual harassment against Bill Clinton. There are two mysterious deaths, the apparent suicide of Vincent Foster, the White House Counsel, whose body may have been moved, and the murder in Little Rock of Gary Parks, the Clinton security chief whose son was keeping a now missing blackmail file on Clinton's sexual conduct.

These are all published allegations, most of which have appeared in serious and responsible parts of the news media; several of them are under investigation by the Special Prosecutor. They have yet to be proved, either individually or collectively. Almost any one of them, if proved, would be very damaging or fatal to the presidency; one can still the principle that the Clintons are innocent until proved guilty, and still recognise that the White House is now boxed in with serious allegations. There are now more separate accusations than there were in Watergate, and some of them are even more serious.

A president who has been put on the defensive becomes a weak president in political terms. Bill Clinton was elected on a programme of social reform, particularly of the American health system. He gave Hillary Clinton the job of designing the health care proposals. Neither he nor Hillary any longer has the political strength to get their proposals through Congress. Those who voted for Bill Clinton because they wanted his reforms are likely to feel as frustrated as he does himself. That must damage his electoral appeal.

Washington Republicans are in no particular hurry to move in for the kill, preferring to keep Bill Clinton hanging in the wind rather than face the natural successor, Al Gore, the Vice-President. If Bill Clinton had to resign, or could not run for a second term, Al Gore, whose conduct has not been questioned, would be a very strong candidate. Indeed the most likely outcome of the possible destruction of Bill Clinton is thought by many people to be a Gore presidency, perhaps for two terms. The Republicans do not want to turn out a wounded Democratic president in order to bring in a strong one.

In Washington, scandal is more powerful than domestic policy, and domestic policy is more powerful than foreign policy. More Washington opinion is sharply critical of the foreign policy performance of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and of the beleaguered President himself. The critique is a broad one. America has four vital bilateral relationships, with Japan, with China, with Russia and with Europe. Three of these have been allowed to sour, with serious consequences. The trade relationship with Japan has become a matter of threats and quarrels, much resented by the Japanese. Arguments with China over human rights have made it impossible to deal with nuclear proliferation in North Vietnam. America and Russia have partially fallen out over Bosnia. Even the European relationship is not working all that well, as the quarrels over Gatt demonstrated. The Americans feel that Europe is a reluctant ally in the post-Cold War world.

Many people in the foreign policy establishment in Washington would like to see a new Secretary of State, both to deal with these relationships and to restore the battered morale of the State Department. As the President is under such concentrated fire, somebody is needed to hold US foreign policy together, as Henry Kissinger did during Watergate. Warren Christopher is not thought to be capable of doing that; indeed he is regarded as the least impressive Secretary of State for a long time. The vacuum in the White House can only be filled by the vindication of the President — which has become rather unlikely — or by a new President. The vacuum in the State Department could, however, be filled. A wide spread Washington view is that the sooner that is done the better.

Britain needs big parties

People must have incentives to join, says Peter Riddell

The victory of Silvio Berlusconi's alliance, the fracturing of the Japanese political system, the Ross Perot phenomenon, even the electoral advance by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — all are seen as signposts towards the extinction of the traditional mass party. But the obituaries are premature and misguided. Instead of celebrating the demise of parties, we should be seeking to revive them.

That is why yesterday's report from the Commons Home Affairs committee on "Funding of Political Parties" is such a missed opportunity. The committee divided along party lines. The Tory majority predictably rejects state funding and defends the status quo, apart from some piecemeal ideas for reform. The Labour minority focuses on alleged scandals about secret donations and calls for greater disclosure and tighter controls. Some of these points are important, but they are secondary to what type of parties we want.

These are not just issues for "unstable" foreigners. The British structure appears on the surface to be intact, but there are plenty of cracks behind. Not only are politicians as a class, as opposed to particular MPs, unpopular, but the membership of parties has declined sharply. While there are no reliable figures, individual memberships of the Tory and Labour parties are now a third or less of their peaks in the 1950s. That partly reflects changing social patterns and use of leisure.

The anti-politics school claims there is a new pluralism. People are still active in politics, but not in parties. Their interest is expressed via pressure and single-issue groups, from Third World charities to anti-road campaigns. Friends of the Earth is not alone in having as many supporters as Labour has members. But we cannot be governed by such groups with their narrow focus and little concern for wider interests. The anti-politics school also argues that the media have replaced parties as the main means of communication. Members are not necessary as long as you have spin-doctors. But that opens the door to wealthy mavericks such as Mr Perot and Mr Berlusconi. As long as we retain a representative system, parties are essential to provide coherence and to offer voters alternative leaders and policies.

The real issue should be the creation of broadly based parties. That requires them to show they are national parties with deep roots and money to support organisation and policymaking. A thriving membership would reduce their dependence on institutional sources or big individual donors. The parties are sceptical about ever becoming truly mass organisations in this way again. Labour's attempts to boost its membership have not yet made much impact — hence the Tories' prickliness about greater openness which might threaten the flow of private donations, and the opposition parties' desire for more state funding.

The priority in any package of reform should not be partisan gestures but measures to revive membership. The majority report yesterday hinted at providing incentives via the tax system for parties to attract small and medium-sized donations. Either a small amount of donation could be tax deductible or there could be a check-off system as in America, where people tick on their tax returns if they want money to go to a presidential election fund. Money is distributed to match individuals' contributions.

Incentives are preferable to unconditional state aid or the present messy system. Instead of squabbling among themselves, the politicians need to look wider, because all their parties are under threat.

Rhyme nor reason

WITH nominations for the coveted post of Oxford Professor of Poetry set to close in ten days time, the city of dreaming versifiers is rumbling with unpoetical discontent. The competition, argue Oxford's most celebrated English professors, has become a "bunfight".

It also looks like becoming something of a two-pot race, with James Fenton — foreign correspondent and wealthy Oxford landowner, thanks to his early work on the libretto of *Les Misérables* — battling it out with the rather lower profile Ursula Fanthorpe.

Fenton looks favourite to succeed Seamus Heaney, with 17 heavyweight proposers including Dame Iris Murdoch, John Bayley, Craig Raine, John Fuller, Sir Isaiah Berlin and John Stalfworthy. Fanthorpe, on the other hand, has only mustered the minimum 12 supporters — none of whom, apparently, quite cut the literary mustard.

The thought of the May election, at which all MAs can vote, fills old hands with

despair. Professor John Carey, Merton Professor of English Literature, objects to the public nature of the election. "The major difficulty is the people who do not get elected. When Edmund Blunden was elected over Robert Lowell it was extremely unfortunate."

Stalfworthy says Fenton's third-class degree in philosophy, psychology and physiology is no obstacle to him following the likes of Auden, Graves and Day-Lewis: "For a good poet you can forgive anything." But he too has his doubts about the selection process. "Poetry is a serious business and this has become a circus. Most of the MAs have not even read the authors in question."

No kicks allowed

ACCREDITATION procedures for the World Cup in America this summer are causing mild apoplexy among sports journalists. Reporters are being asked to allow any past criminal offences to be investigated by the FBI. "And

this from a country whose President smoked but never inhaled," says one indignant correspondent.

A clause in the application form they have to sign authorises the FBI and other American law enforcement agencies to release to the World Cup organisers any "criminal history and criminal investigative records".

The National Union of Journalists proclaims itself outraged. "The last time we were involved in something like this was over Conservative party passes for conferences at the 1992 election. But they were so desperate for publicity that they let it lapse."

Barry Johnston says his father would have approved wholeheartedly. "If an appeal like this helps to find an unknown Alec Stewart, my father would have been delighted."



DIARY

Johnners recalled

FEW SPECTATORS will have been more delighted by Alec Stewart's splendid form at the crease than Pauline Johnston, widow of the much-missed Brian, who, before she headed for Barbados, remarked how terribly the series was going.

But she is also doing her own bit to ensure that the future of English cricket stays as bright as her husband would have liked. For she is backing plans for a Brian Johnston charity appeal, to be run by the Lord's Taverners, which will raise money to help youngsters play sport.

Barry Johnston says his father would have approved wholeheartedly. "If an appeal like this helps to find an unknown Alec Stewart, my father would have been delighted."

Stephen Milligan was not above a bit of scandal-mongering himself. Sir Peter Horden reminded the congregation at the memorial service in Westminster's church, St Margaret's. Horden recalled how the former journalist once exposed an EC commissioner who took a shapely translator with him on an all-expenses trip to China. Fluent she may have been but, according to Milligan, sadly not in any of the Chinese languages.

Mystery village

IT IS in the Hampshire Downs; it has a 12th-century church, a cricket pitch, council and manor houses; it is home to 450 people, from farm-workers to London stockbrokers; and is an hour and a half's drive from central

London. It is a real village, but, for the purposes of a new book, it goes by the name of Childerley.

The author of the book, assistant professor of sociology at Iowa State University, is Michael Mayerfeld Bell, who has good reason to protect the villagers. He spent nine months there between 1988 and 1991 and describes, in *Childerley*, their lives, their attitudes to class and their thoughts about each other. "There are ways you could find out what the village is, but I am not going to help you," he says. "I had some fun changing the names. If they want to say, 'This is us', well that's fine. I'm not going to do it."

Bye, governor

FRIENDS of Chris Patten accept that the former Tory party chairman is unlikely to return to the Commons. Nor, it appears, is he likely to return to Bath. Patten has just put Cromwell's Rest, the family's constituency home, on the market for £135,000.

On her visit to Britain this week, Patten's wife Lavender asked the Bath estate agents Crisp Cowley to sell the house,

Blissful anticipation

A WORLDWIDE hunt is on, we are told, for the new James Bond following Timothy Dalton's announcement that he is quitting the role he first played in 1987. But of equal concern is the fate of Miss Moneypenny. For the last two Bond films she has been played by actress Caroline Bliss (right), who took over the role from Lois Maxwell.

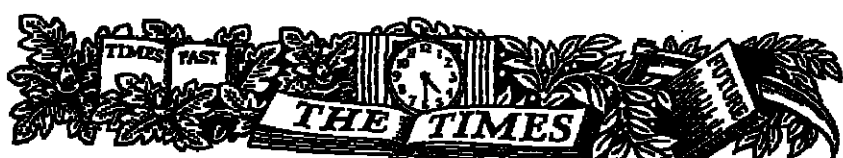
Whether Bliss will continue to conduct the world's longest-running office romance is currently unclear. She is yet to be told whether she will appear in the next film. As her agent, Dallas Smith, delicately puts it: "There is no existing contract but I'm sure she would be delighted to do it again if she was asked."

But Bliss is not just sitting there waiting for the hot-line to ring with news of an offer. She is currently on tour, warming up for a West End appearance alongside Diana Quick and former *Professionals* star, Martin Shaw, in a court-room drama, *Rough Justice*.

complete with adjoining chapel in the village of Conkwell. Senior partner John Cromwell enthuses about the property's many qualities, but he seems reluctant to confirm that he and his men did, in



fact, rest there. As for more recent occupiers? "The only reason they are selling is that he's likely to be in Hong Kong for some years. When he does come back, he'll need to be nearer London."



A FALSE SAMARITAN

America is wrong about workers' rights

Few caravan traders, said Peter Sutherland, could ever have entered the gates of Marrakesh with as much relief as have the veterans of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This eight-year global negotiation on liberalising trade formally ends tomorrow in Morocco's ancient trading city when more than 120 countries will sign detailed undertakings to cut tariff barriers by 37 per cent, open up global markets in agriculture and services, and convert Gatt into a fully fledged World Trade Organisation.

To have reached this point is a victory for workers the world over, opening the way to a surge in prosperity. But Morocco's blue skies are clouded by an American-led drive, supported by France, to introduce environmental standards, labour conditions and workers' rights into future trade policy.

The Franco-American case can be made to sound both plausible and humane (as can that for the European Social Charter). Nobody can, or should, be indifferent to such evils as slavery, bonded labour or exploitation of children. Gatt already permits countries to ban exports made with prison labour. Trade sanctions could be a powerful weapon for social justice if they were wielded by governments whose markets are vitally important for offending countries. So why not use them?

The first answer is that humanitarian concern can be, and often is, a convenient cover for protecting the jobs of workers in the rich world. The American labour movement is frank about its determination to keep out "unfair competition" from goods made in poor countries. Trade barriers against countries whose main competitive advantage lies in lower wages and social costs hurt the impoverished. The remedy is only too likely to be abused: an example is the recent US branding of sanctions unless Indonesia, a poor country, introduces laws which would raise labour costs.

The second is that organisations such as Gatt or the new WTO exist to help countries become richer by tearing trade barriers

down, not by creating new and discriminatory ones. They cannot be the arbiters of all political and economic disputes: Mr Sutherland, director-general of Gatt, is right to suspect that the WTO would collapse under the strain. In a world of huge disparities in wealth, one man's exploitation can be another's escape from starvation. International conventions exist against the more flagrant of these social evils. Their implementation is better pursued through such organisations as the International Labour Office, and by ensuring that consumers, who are increasingly sensitive to human rights abuses, are kept informed.

President Clinton cannot escape the charge of playing politics with trade. Coming on top of his decision last month to resurrect "Super-301", a crude American trade weapon which obliges the US Administration to retaliate unilaterally against what it determines to be "unjustifiable, unreasonable or discriminatory" trading practices by others, Washington's motives are thoroughly suspect.

Mr Clinton threw his weight behind free trade last year because he sensed the political wind: Americans understood that the North American Free Trade Agreement and a Gatt deal would pull the country out of recession. But he has not always been a free trader and this year he has supported heavy government subsidies for high-technology industries. Moreover America's trade war with Japan aims at forcing the Japanese government to regulate its industry for America's benefit. The president is struggling to appease ruthless lobbies who will exploit his every weakness.

Poorer countries have protectionist lobbies too, and — at American urging — took considerable political risks in deciding to open up their markets. If America now insists on giving new signals, it risks a ferocious upturn in global protectionism. There is no area of international policy in which the world has so great a need of consistency from America, and a greater right to demand it.

MINUTES OF INTEREST

The Chancellor has set a brave challenge for his colleagues

Kenneth Clarke's decision to start publishing the minutes of his regular meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England, at which the Chancellor sets interest rates for the month ahead, should be a major breakthrough for open government and economic rationality in British public life. Whether and how much to move interest rates is one of the most economically important and politically sensitive decisions in any government's power.

Civil servants normally argue that any disclosure of advice to ministers would have a disastrous chilling effect on the frankness with which they present their views and judgments. But if even the Treasury now believes that policy discussions will survive the knowledge of publication, could not the same principle be gradually extended to other departments from Agriculture and Environment to National Heritage and Health? To overcome the mandarins who have long dreaded any precedent for such disclosure must have required from Mr Clarke a self-confidence and courage that is all too rare in politics.

Of course the decision to publish minutes could be just a public relations exercise with little policy importance — like the appointment of the Seven Wise Men and the introduction of a monthly monetary report which merely regurgitated publicly available statistics, immediately after Black Wednesday. It would be quite easy for the Treasury to release a sanitised account of the monthly monetary meetings which contributed nothing to public knowledge. To judge, however, from the first batch of minutes released yesterday, covering the meetings held between Messrs Clarke and George in the first three months of this year, this is not the plan.

Instead of papering over disagreements with platitudes, the minutes are impressively clear and sharp. For example, in February, when interest rates were cut by a quarter point, the minutes state that the Governor "strongly advised against" any rate cut. Mr Clarke replied that "he was concerned that advice was erring excessively on the side of caution". He initially wanted a half-point rate cut, but settled on a compromise with Mr George.

Beyond the much-discussed, though never previously confirmed, disagreement between the Bank and Treasury in February, the minutes also give valuable insights into the Chancellor's personal state of mind. They say, with a hint of regret, that Mr Clarke had "erred on the side of caution in cutting interest rates by only a quarter point" in his Budget. And, commenting on the euphoria about economic recovery that was widespread in early January, the minutes make clear that the Treasury was more doubtful: "the change of sentiment was based mainly on anecdotal evidence." The Chancellor "himself was much less sure that the pace of growth had picked up significantly in recent months".

Judging by these documents, the Chancellor has shared many of the concerns about economic policy and the impact of higher taxes on recovery expressed repeatedly in these columns. What is not yet clear is why he has usually deferred to the cautious views of the Bank. Perhaps the next few months' minutes will reveal the answer. Better still, perhaps Mr Clarke will eventually extend the decisiveness and sensible instincts he has shown in dealing with the bureaucracy of monetary policy to the decisions on interest rates themselves.

PUB HUBBUB

Karaoke is the latest trend in a long bogus tradition

The future success of the British pub may rest in karaoke. That is the message from Olympia in West London, where the annual commercial show for publicans is peering into the future, and trying to sell the latest philosophy for their ancient trade.

Before the drinking classes rise in anger at having "I Did It My Way" belted out at them by shameless amateurs with bigger egos than ears, they should stop being sentimental about their peculiar institution. The British pub is not what it was. But then it never has exactly delivered its propaganda.

Pubs have always been places of bogus tradition, in their punning signs, their pseudo-aristocratic connections, and the strength of their beer. Their architecture is mock-Tudor, mock-Victorian, mock-rustic, mock-anything, hung about with horse brasses and plastic. True, they have survived the challenge of the music hall, the pub pianist, the radio, the television, the juke box, the fruit machine, and the arrival of home videos. But the only fixed point has been the length of time it takes to get to the bar through the crowd of leavers-on.

George Orwell, that old romantic, fell into the boozy nostalgia about pubs 50 years ago in his essay *The Moon Under Water*. "Grained woodwork, the ornamental mirrors behind the bar, the cast-iron fireplaces,

It is always quiet enough to talk. The house possesses neither a radio nor a piano. I think the garden is its best feature, because it allows whole families to go there instead of Mum having to stay at home and mind the baby while Dad goes out alone."

Pubs have always been bogus as well as traditional. Karaoke and plastic food are only their latest attempt in 1994 to keep up with the times and attract the punters. The food has become better because of the deep-freeze and the microwave, and drinking habits have become more civilised. But raucous singing in pubs goes back before Falstaff to Chaucer. Any pub has always needed two harpers — one for serving and one for listening to maudlin Mulliner stories by the customers. The young may prefer raves, but that must surely be a passing phase.

Karaoke is simply the latest attraction to the tolerant community of the English pub. It satisfies the craving for participation and performance, as do quiz nights and live music. But even the arrival of karaoke from Japan need not ruin its traditions, provided that there is a snug in which to escape from the exhibitionism. A pub should be a place for meditation as well as noisy showing off. But a public house is always bound to be an unsatisfactory neighbour.

Serbs condemned 'without a hearing'

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Both your leader today, "April fools", and the facing article on Bosnia by Lawrence Freedman omit to mention one crucial fact: the Serbs' wholly justified reason for launching their attack on Gorade.

The Muslim forces in Gorade, enjoying United Nations protection, launched savage attacks on the surrounding Serb-inhabited countryside, razing six villages and killing their civilian inhabitants, mainly women and children and elderly people. When the Serbs retaliate, they are denounced as aggressors and are bombed. This is a repetition of what happened at Srebrenica last summer, while I was in the Serb-held part of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Apparently there is one law for the Muslims and another for the Christians.

As at Srebrenica, the Anglo-American and other Nato media failed to report the Muslim aggression, though Serbian TV carried full pictures. This suppression is a painfully reminiscent of your newspaper's anti-Czech and pro-German campaign in the late 1930s, together with that of the rest of the British media from right to left, when the Czechs were denounced as the main threat to European peace and as persecuting innocent Sudeten Germans, Hungarians and Slovaks.

Though John Major formally repudiated the Munich agreement in 1992, the spirit of Munich, in which we fostered Germany's proxy *Drang nach Osten*, continues. The Serbs are condemned without a hearing. I fear for the eventual price that we shall all pay on this occasion too. History is a hanging judge.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7,
April 12.

Christian virtues

From the Rector of St Stephen Walbrook

Sir, Your religion correspondent writes (April 11) that if the Bishop of London attends the ordination of women priests in his cathedral on Saturday "at least one woman will almost certainly attempt to shake hands with him during the peace". This could place the bishop in an almost impossible position, as his response is bound to anger one side or the other.

It is not necessary to be male to be ordained, but it is surely necessary to be Christian. To use the holiest service of Christian fellowship to embarrass the bishop and divide the congregation into angry protagonists would be inexcusable, and I hope the unnamed woman and any other political non-worshippers will think better of it.

The devout women seeking ordination do not need one of their sex proving that you do not need to be male to be a Judas, betraying Christ with a treacherous kiss.

Yours faithfully,
CHAD VARAH,
St Stephen Walbrook,
Walbrook, EC4A,
April 11.

Costly arbitration

From Mr Colin H. J. White

Sir, Thank you to Bernard Levin for again questioning the finite potential of a piece of string ("Stop trivialising the law", April 5). From my experience as a pupil-arbitrator, I can confidently inform him that the sound value of commercial arbitration is in danger of being distorted by the weighty involvement of the Bar.

Even before the 18th century, common law informed the practice adopted by merchants and traders by which they referred their disputes to persons specially selected for the purpose by their experience in the intricacies of specialised trading differences.

During my training in arbitration, I have been privileged to sit in on several disputed cases. Without exception, the parties have been represented by counsel.

Should I ever be so unfortunate as to be a party to an arbitration, I should prefer to lay my case before the wisdom of an arbitrator who is experienced in the details of the dispute without the need for representation by an expensive silken eloquence weaving through the cord of common sense.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN WHITE,
Clarence Cottage,
Hampton Court Road,
Hampton Court, Surrey,
April 5.

From Mr S. B. C. Eveleigh

Sir, Bernard Levin surmises that had he been "apprenticed" to a lawyer, he would now own half a dozen ocean-going yachts. Page 33 of the same issue reports that a top City firm has laid off nine lawyers and is negotiating the departure of 11 partners.

Yours faithfully,
S. B. C. EVELEIGH,
Flat 40, 70-72 Chancery Lane, WC2,
April 5.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Complexities of Rwanda terror

From the Director of Christian Aid

Sir, Your coverage of the past week's terrible events in Rwanda has been laudably extensive. However, it would be an over-simplification to suggest that divisions are based solely on tribal hatred.

Although seen as being representative of Tutsis, the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) is a broad-based movement of Rwandan refugees who have achieved growing support within the country, including that of ex-cabinet ministers who defected from the single party with the advent of multi-party politics. The RPF is mainly Tutsi but there are Hutus both in its leadership — including one of the late President Habyimana's former vice-presidents — and among its membership.

The RPF's links with Uganda are also divisive. Some of its members were educated there and became grounded in an Anglophone culture which can seem alien and threatening to the Francophone culture of Kigali-educated politicians. Neither Hutus nor Tutsis have geographical territories, unlike most other ethnic groupings in Africa.

The continuation of killing and looting in Rwanda is a manifestation of the militarisation of African politics. Presidential guards, loyal to one person, and groups of armed youths, loyal to different political parties, have apparently been the instigators of the bulk of the violence. This pattern is not limited to Rwanda and is a potential recipe for further killings in other African countries.

The current troubles were preceded by three events that destabilised Rwandan politics. The Arusha Accord between the RPF and the government, signed in August 1993, was perceived by extremist Hutu parties to be overly generous to the former; the Burundian crisis in October, when President Ndayize, a Hutu, was killed in an abortive coup by a faction of the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army, reinforced suspicion against the RPF; and lack of compromise since Arusha led to several political murders before last week's air crash.

Over and above all this, the abject poverty suffered by most people in Rwanda and Burundi makes any kind of peace between communities difficult to achieve. It is only when this poverty is properly addressed by the international community that peace and reconciliation can come to these people.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL H. TAYLOR,
Director, Christian Aid,
PO Box 100, London SE1 7XT,
April 11.

Harmony and heckling

From Mrs A. G. MacKintosh

Sir, Do Frederick Stocken and the Hecklers repeat and leading article, April 2; letters, April 7) believe that the audience at *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* has paid to hear one of the greatest operas of this century, or to hear a branch of the peace by an immature young composer?

And does Sir Harrison Birtwistle intend to heckle Stocken's next concert, or would he regard such behaviour as unmusical and unprofessional?

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MACKINTOSH,
1 Taunoch Drive,
Milngavie, Glasgow.

From Mr Tony Paterson

Sir, Your sprightly leader about the Hecklers was a bit unfair on them. Its criticism was based on their founder Frederick Stocken's alleged threat that they would "hoot throughout" Birtwistle's *Gawain* at the Royal Opera House.

Yet your report on the same day merely quoted Mr Stocken as saying,

Vita's floral view

From the Reverend A. Kingsley Lloyd

Sir, David Cannadine tells us [article, April 2; see also letters, April 11] that "strong, vivid colours were out" at Sissinghurst. However, Vita Sackville-West's *In Your Garden* (Michael Joseph, 1951) devotes several pages to the cultivation and enjoyment of zinnias; summing up as follows:

Personally I like them highly-piggyed, when they look like those pots of paint squeezed out upon the palette, and I like them all by themselves, not associated with anything else. As do flowers they are invaluable: they never flop.

Yours etc,
A. KINGSLEY LLOYD,
13 High Street, Orwell,
Royston, Hertfordshire,
April 4.

'World in Action'

From the Chief Executive of ITV

Sir, My old Granada colleague, David Plowright (letter, April 9), does not need to call for help from politicians or anyone else to protect *World in Action*. I have already made a commitment that Britain's most prestigious and viewed current affairs programme has an important place in the ITV schedule.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW QUINN,
Chief Executive, ITV,
ITV Network Centre,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1,
April 10.

Immigration law after Churchill

From Dr David Coleman

Sir, It seems a little unfair that Churchill should be condemned for advocating the control of immigration from the New Commonwealth (reports and John Gigg's article, April 8). In view of subsequent legislation, he might be regarded as prescient.

The Attlee Cabinet had already given thought to introducing controls before it left office in 1951. After several years' debate, the subsequent Conservative government introduced the first, relatively ineffectual controls on Commonwealth immigration in 1962.

In party terms, and it would seem in the opinion of the majority of the electorate, Churchill had been right and Lennox-Boyd *et al* wrong. The 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act was replaced in 1971 by a more effective Immigration Act which put the entry of Commonwealth citizens under much the same controls as that of other overseas citizens. It remains the basis of control to the present day.

However, the majority of New Commonwealth immigrants resident in the UK entered after the 1962 Act and, on the usual official measure, New Commonwealth immigration has been increasing slowly since 1987.

Neither the 1962 nor the 1971 Act was repealed by subsequent Labour governments. They, too, may be assumed to have agreed, at least in general terms, with the Churchillian view that immigration from the New Commonwealth needed to be controlled. If Churchill was guilty, then it seems that we are all guilty.

Yours truly,
DAVID COLEMAN
(Lecturer in demography),
University of Oxford,
Department of Applied Social
Studies and Social Research,
Wellington Square, Oxford,
April 8.

Aintree ethics

From Lieutenant Colonel M. F. Davies

Sir, No doubt the chairperson of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (letter, April 9) will be disappointed that the Grand National failed to supply her with any fuel for her ridiculous allegation that the horses are "raced by those who put profit before compassion".

As the owner of a small share in The Master Gunner, I believe that the vast majority of National Hunt owners are in racing for fun, not for profit: winnings are an enjoyable bonus.

For us, as with most owners, The Master Gunner's welfare comes first. That is why he did not run in the Royal Artillery Gold Cup at Sandown last year, even though that race was, and remains, our ambition. No, Ms Newkirk, compassion comes a long way before profit in the books of most owners and trainers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVIES,
Orchards, Tatworth,
Chard, Somerset.

From Mr W. Purcell

Sir, The spectacle of horses floundering over bush fences to land sprawling does little to enhance the legend of the Grand National. The fact that this year only six finished from a field of 36 would indicate that the National, far from being the sporting event of the year, is quite the reverse: an annual disaster, perpetuated by the betting fraternity, commercial sponsors and the tax man.

To subject horses to a course like the National shows that our ramoured affection for them is no more than the Spaniards have for their bulls.

Yours sincerely,
W. PURCELL,
5 Oxford Close, Mitcham, Surrey.

From Mr J. A. Cunningham

Sir, You used the wrong heading to the letter in Saturday's *Times*: it should have been "Joy at Aintree", not "Grief at Aintree".

No one could accuse Rosemary Henderson, the 51-year-old owner rider of Fiddler's Pike who finished fifth on Saturday, of being solely financially motivated. The mixture of joy, pride in her horse and relief that she demonstrated in her TV interview after the race said it all.

Yours etc,
J. A. CUNNINGHAM,
Dorcas Farm, Stoke Hammond,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Dual forecast

From Mrs M. L. Wigley

Sir, May I congratulate you on your subtle and accurate prediction of this year's Grand National winner by showing both a photo of the jockey and a sketch of the owner's colours on your front page on the morning of the race. Sadly, I didn't recognise this valuable tip until after the race was over. But if such forecasts are to become a feature in *The Times* on major race days I shall scrutinise my copy on June 1 (Derby day) with more than usual interest.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET L. WIGLEY,
Rushall, 22 Burford Crescent,
Wiltshire, Wiltshire,
April 9.

• World's best boats come up for hire • Dirty-tourists ban • Live like Khashoggi

Status symbols set for sail

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

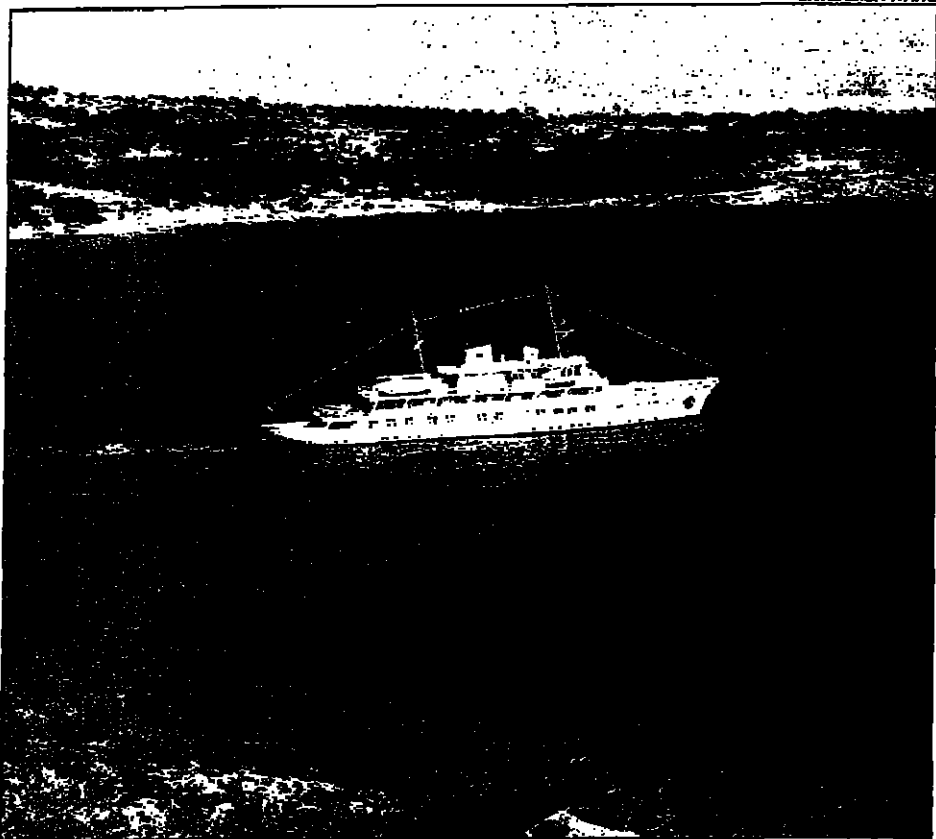
AS THE Caribbean hurricane season looms, 60 or 70 of the grandest charter yachts are ploughing away from the potential danger zone and heading back across the Atlantic for a summer season in the Mediterranean.

The private yacht has long been the ultimate symbol of power and status. Lady Docker is remembered for her parties aboard the 212ft *Shemara*, America's Cup winner Alan Bond had two or three dotted around the globe before his corporate world crashed around him, Sir Donald Gosling, head of National Car Parks, still has two, and for Robert Maxwell, his yacht *Lady Ghislaine* (since renamed *Lady Mona III*) was a last refuge.

But the cost of maintaining such luxury toys is such that even the best known private yachts are invariably available for charter by the weekend or week. At a price.

For the man who has everything except the sea-legs for taking up a life at sea, a charter cruise through the western Mediterranean or Aegean can be the ultimate holiday break. First-class cuisine, a crew to pamper any whim, privacy — even from the paparazzi — and an ever-changing view of the world from a luxury suite designed to knock the stars off the best hotels.

Starting perhaps with a harbour-front view of the Monaco Grand Prix, a typical



Luxury afloat is available on charter yachts such as the recently rebuilt *Princess Tanya*.

cruise might take in a night jetting to Corsica, a morning crossing to Sicily, a day in a deserted bay and an evening in Ajaccio before a lunch date the next day in the picturesque fortress town of Bonifacio.

Having your own vessel means it is at your command. If weather conditions threaten

a bumpy crossing in one direction, the yacht can stay put or head for fresh horizons on a smoother course. Longer passages are usually best made at night when the sea breeze has died, and both guests and the Mediterranean are slumbering.

For the commercially-minded,

most yachts are equipped with satellite phones and a fax machine or telex, so guests can keep a regular check on their empires. Some also make unusual conference venues.

What client or busy executive is going to turn down the chance to cruise the Mediterranean on a luxury private

yacht? The guaranteed privacy and ambience that can never be realised in a hotel suite will help to soften even the toughest business minds.

Yachts available in the Mediterranean this season include Bond's former *Southern Cross III*, a 171ft motor yacht with a cruising speed of 18 knots and room for 13 guests in private suites, and Thomas Sopwith's 1934 America's Cup challenger *Endeavour*, a 130ft J-class yacht restored at a cost of more than \$10 million (about £6.6 million) to recapture the beauty and extravagance of that Edwardian era.

Charter prices for these floating palaces vary from about £2,800 a week for a 47ft yacht to almost ten times as much for Sir Donald Gosling's 246ft *Leander*. In between is an assortment of vessels available through London brokers, including *Cavendish White* (071-352 6565) and *Camper & Nicholson* (071-491 2953).

Southern Cross III costs about £85,714 a week, Tommy Sopwith's 131ft motor yacht *Philante* is available at £42,177 and the pure sail power and beauty of *Endeavour* can be experienced in the waters of Northern Europe this summer for £40,816.

Prices reflect the bare boat only. By the time you add crew wages, food, fuel and harbour dues, costs spiral by a further 20 to 40 per cent. And if you have to count the cost of extras, it is probably not worth considering. Unless of course you are invited as a guest.

Stay away, this place is too beautiful

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TOURISTS deemed unsuitable for certain beauty spots could in future be discouraged in favour of more environmentally friendly visitors, planners say.

At its most extreme, the policy would require coach and car users to walk miles to beauty spots and signposts to be removed to make beauty spots harder to find.

As the number of day-trippers in Britain rises, regions will soon have to choose the type of tourist they really want, and actively discourage the rest, says Clive Gordon, managing director of the Environment and Development Company, which advises government agencies and the private sector on what is being called "sustainable" tourism. He adds: "Planners will have to be more selective and target people who cause the least damage to beauty spots."

The National Trust is now issuing timed tickets for entrance to popular houses and gardens on its busiest days: the Wordsworth Trust has introduced a booking system to cope with big groups of visitors to Dove Cottage, Grasmere, and in Cumbria, there are schemes to keep traffic away from environmentally sensitive areas.

The council at Dedham Vale, Essex, in Constable country, admitted last week that its villages were suffering



Too much? Visitors at Combestone Tor on Dartmoor.

from the problems of too many visitors and it would not be promoting them again this summer. Proctor Naylor, managing director of the East Anglia Tourist Board, says: "We might also look at not making our signposts so good, so that people really have to make an effort to find us."

Chris Lewis, a planner who has been commissioned to look at ways of managing visitors in the Peak National Park, says that millions of car-owning sightseers have more leisure time than ever, and are heading straight for the well-publicised tourist areas.

"While it is natural to want to capitalise on strengths," he says, "there is a real danger that visitors will be concentrated in a very small area, for which demand is just too high."

He believes that before tourist boards and local author-

ties begin marketing strategies, they should consider how many visitors they can cope with.

Tony Burton, the Council for the Protection of Rural England's senior planner, criticises the work of the British Tourist Authority and English Tourist Board, which he claims takes into account "only the economic and not the environmental considerations" of developing tourism.

Managers of tourism in the Peak District have already experienced the damage done by millions of day-trippers, and under a new scheme being discussed this week, tourists would be asked to make donations to a conservation fund.

On Dartmoor, tourists are being diverted from the most popular regions to less-visited areas outside the National Park.

Millionaire's life in Kenya

FAMILIES and groups of friends can now book Arab millionaire Adnan Khashoggi's former home, a private game farm in Kenya, through a tour operator for the first time. Ol Pejeta, which can accommodate up to 12 people, is now being offered by Carrier Travel (0625 382006). Prices are from about £1,200 per person, for 12 people together for seven nights, with

flights, all meals, drinks, walking and horse-riding safaris, and night game drives.

Luton-Paris link

A NEW direct air service between Luton and Paris has been launched by British Airways Express. It is the first time that the small commuter airline has operated scheduled services from an airport other than Gatwick. The route will be flown four times a day

using one of the airline's five new ATR42 turbo-prop aircraft, with both economy and business class. Return fares start at £89.

Ulster on the up
NORTHERN Ireland's visitor attractions raised record revenues last year of £4 million — half as much again as in the previous year. It is estimated that the sites now provide over 1,000 jobs, 20 per cent more than in 1992.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

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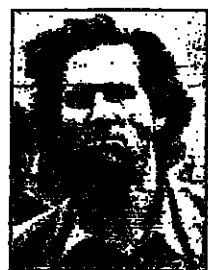
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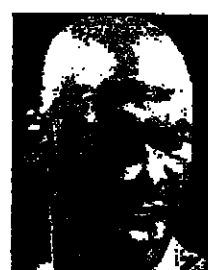
JANET BUSH 27

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THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 14 1994



Eddie George, left, with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, at the Treasury yesterday, where they confirmed their difference of opinion in February

Clarke and George admit clash over cutting rates

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, confirmed yesterday that they clashed at their meeting in February over whether to cut interest rates — as the financial markets suspected at the time. They also agreed that rates should be cut again if inflation remains low and if tax rises lead to a slow down in the recovery.

Their stance on rates was revealed when the Treasury decided for the first time to publish minutes of the regular monthly meetings held to discuss interest rates. This is by far the most dramatic step taken by the Government to promote more openness about monetary policy decisions.

The minutes of the February meeting, so contentious that it took place on two days instead of the normal one, show that Mr Clarke wanted a half-point cut, but Mr George "strongly advised" against any cut. The two then settled on a quarter-point compromise, which was carried out on February 8.

A flavour of the tensions came at a joint press conference yesterday. Asked whether he felt uncomfortable that it was now publicly known that he lost the interest rate argument in February, Mr George said: "It is debatable whether I lost the argument. I lost the decision."

The Chancellor, asked if he regarded February's cut as appropriate with the benefit of hindsight, said: "It is as plain as a pikestaff that I was right."

The Chancellor said in February "that he was concerned that advice was being given on the side of caution".

His main argument in favour of a half-point cut was "a significant risk that the fiscal measures [tax rises] would slow down the recovery". That view

is expressed forcefully in the minutes of the January and February meetings and contrasts strongly with his public statements playing down the potential effect of tax rises.

The minutes since the start of the year show Mr Clarke consistently biased towards lower interest rates and Mr George leaning against them.

They also make clear that there was disagreement in November about the size of interest rate cut needed to offset the Budget tax rises.

Rates were cut by a half point just before the Budget, but the Chancellor said, according to the minutes of the January meeting, that he "had erred on the side of caution".

Mr George agreed with a "bias towards a case in January", but said that the argument for lower rates had weakened by February. In contrast, the Chancellor felt the case for a cut had strengthened by February.

In March, they decided that no further cut was appropriate, but agreed that there was a case for another cut if inflationary pressures remain subdued and there are signs that economic growth is weakening. Short sterling futures, a good guide to market interest rate expectations, rallied yesterday because of hopes that another cut may emerge.

Agreement on another cut if tax rises slow down the recovery comes in contrast to the last report by the Treasury's panel of independent forecasters, where a majority said that the next move in interest rates could be up or down.

The next set of minutes, covering the Mr George-Clarke meeting on March 30, will be published on May 18.

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BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

CALL



Lasmo, the struggling oil company, is asking shareholders for £219 million to reduce borrowings and avoid the sale of prized assets
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LIFT

Smiths Industries remains on the lookout for an acquisition, possibly in its key area of aerospace
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ROOM



The Savoy Hotel is back in the black but is cutting its dividend to save money for capital spending
Page 26

VACANCY

Hoskyns, the computer services company, plans to create more than 350 new jobs this year
Page 25

Hamleys to float at £40m

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

HAMLEYS, the toys and games retailer founded in 1760, will be capitalised at about £40 million when it joins the stock market next month through a placing and intermediaries offer.

The company, a £20 million management buy-in from Lowndes Queensway in 1989, plans to raise up to £20 million. Howard Dyer, chairman, said the proceeds will include about £12 million of new money to eliminate debt with the balance to fund expansion.

Mr Dyer said the flagship Regent Street store, in London, which has 45,000 sq ft of selling space, has seen continued growth. Its range of 40,000 toys and games attracts an estimated 5 million visitors each year.

Hamleys also has a store at Heathrow's Terminal 4 and an outlet in Covent Garden. The group is further expanding through a deal with House of Fraser in which it will supply stores operating toy departments from next month.

The full prospectus is expected on April 26, with dealings in the shares due to begin on May 6.

Over 30 pits to go to private sector

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday predicted that as many as 32 coal mines would be in the private sector by the end of the year as it set in train the sale of British Coal.

Although the bill to privatise British Coal has not yet completed its passage through Parliament and will not become law until summer, the Government yesterday made the first real move towards the sale by issuing a preliminary memorandum detailing BC's assets and the sale process.

Almost 100 expressions of interest in buying part or all of British Coal have so far been registered with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Government's coal privatisation adviser, NIM Rothschild — up to 40 of them from overseas.

The Government refused to disclose which companies — including international mining concerns such as Hanson and Kitz — might be interested, or whether any had declared an interest in buying all or part of the coal. Ministers said that if one company did successfully

■ Sale details will be sent to the companies interested in buying all or part of British Coal in the summer, prompting bids by September and the sales by December

bid for all parts of the industry, it would become one of the world's top ten mining operators.

Ministers would not put a price on the sale, or disclose the balance of liabilities to be held by the Government and private operators.

Details of the sale will now be sent out to those interested, with the aim of providing extensive details of assets in the summer, prompting bids by September and sales by December. Tim Eggar, the coal minister, said: "I would expect the action to hot up on the basis of this document." Labour is likely to attack the Government's move as precipitate.

Mr Eggar forecast that up to 32 collieries could be in the private sector by the end of the year. These would be 17 in the five regional coal companies that the Government is to form from British Coal and offer for sale as separate

packages, six currently mothballed pits, four pits currently licensed to private-sector operators and five over which British Coal is negotiating licensing with private companies.

Ministers are pleased that the number of mines that could be privatised within the year is up to three times higher than some industry estimates of the likely outcome of the sale.

Mr Eggar said that he would be surprised if British Coal moved to close more pits before the sale. He said: "British Coal has had to take difficult decisions to bring supply and demand into a more sustainable balance. I am confident that, as a result of the steps taken, the long-term prospects for the industry are good."

Although Tower colliery in mid-Glamorgan — the last pit in South Wales — is due to be mothballed tomorrow, its

miners will meet today on a surprise offer made to their leaders in talks with British Coal yesterday that would let them carry on working at the pit, on reduced pay.

If the miners decide today to carry on working under new terms, they stand to lose out on current redundancy payments, which expire at the end of this month, but the deal would give them several months' more employment before the whole industry is sold.

Although it looks likely that union officials will recommend acceptance of the deal, some miners said that it was a British Coal tactic to put pressure on them to stop fighting to save the pit.

British Coal welcomed the Government's announcement, saying that the industry's "transformation" in performance meant that private ownership offered it the best chance of a viable future. Neil Clarke, chairman, said: "This is a very significant point in the life of an industry which has been and remains of great importance to the country."

Five-way split, page 24
Pennington, page 25

Reforms to make directors howl

By ROSS THOMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Cadbury Committee guidelines to improve corporate governance are inadequate and tough new laws are needed to rein in takeover bids and clamp down on executive pay, according to a study published by the Social Market Foundation.

Shareholders should vote in advance on the pay of non-executive directors, while bosses should also have to seek shareholder approval in advance if they plan to bid for another listed company, the study says.

The proposals, in a paper for the centre-right think tank by Stanley Wright, a former merchant banker,

are likely to bring bows of protest from executive directors. But Mr Wright says more "legal" curbs on directors are needed to make companies change direction. Under the current regime, he says, companies create the illusion of growth through acquisitions, rather than through investment to create new assets and real wealth for shareholders. His solution is to put shareholders, including institutions, back in the driving seat, and to improve directors' accountability.

"Many of the worst manifestations of our capitalist culture are the result of lack of accountability to shareholders," says Mr Wright in *Two Cheers for the Institutions*. "Too much corporate activity, and in particular the takeover

culture, is fed by ambitions and motives which have little to do with shareholders' interests."

He adds: "It is too easy to mount a takeover bid; it is too difficult to change management by other means. There is little effective constraint on remuneration of top management and too little genuinely independent judgment on management." Too often, he says, the interests of non-executive directors are so closely allied with those of executives that "not uncommonly they vote themselves large and generous remuneration packages, often including secure tenure and sometimes provision for golden parachutes."

He suggests including:

□ Election of non-executives for two-year terms, with pay and conditions approved by shareholders.

□ Prescribed fees but no perks for non-executives.

□ There be no fewer than two non-executives, and no more than six.

□ Michael Eisner, head of Walt Disney, broke records for executive pay last year, with £203 million, in spite of taking a 90 per cent salary cut due to losses from Euro Disney. He earned almost \$600,000 a day, two-thirds more than the previous record of \$360,000.

Two Cheers for the Institutions, Stanley Wright, Social Market Foundation, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. Price £10.

Pennington, page 25

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MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

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Five-way split is key to sale of British Coal

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday disclosed how British Coal is to be privatised — including which assets will be put in each of the five regional packages to be put up for sale.

Although the privatisation bill is still before Parliament, ministers yesterday sanctioned the Government's coal privatisation advisers, NM Rothschild, to issue to interested parties a preliminary memorandum on the sale of the state industry.

Under terms of the proposed sale, those interested in obtaining detailed figures on assets have until May 25 to register applications, including a £15,000 deposit for each of the five regional coal companies that the Government is to form, and £5,000

for details of each of the six collieries currently being operated on a care and maintenance basis, which are to be offered for sale separately. The money is fully or partly repayable.

Full information will be made available to those pre-qualifying for bids in June, with bids submitted in September. The Government aims to complete sales by the end of December.

Tim Eggar, the coal minister, yesterday refused to put a price on assets to be offered for sale, insisting that this was for the market to decide.

The five regional coal companies are:

□ Central North: Yorkshire and Durham coalfields. Pits: 9 — Kellingley, Maltby, Point of Ayr, Prince of Wales and the five Selby collieries (North Selby, Rixall,

Stillington, Wistow and Whitmoor). *Opencast*: 5 sites, 5" disposal" (collection and distribution areas). *Output*: deep — 16.3 million tonnes (mt), *opencast* — 2mt. *Reserves*: coal — 213mt, *opencast* — 5.4mt, full — 55mt. *Annual contract tonnage*: 15mt. *Stocks*: 3.9mt.

□ Central South: Midlands fields, including Nottinghamshire. Pits: Asfordby, Bilsbrough, Dew Mill, Harworth, Thoresby, Welbeck. *Opencast*: 5.7. *Output*: deep — 9mt, *opencast* — 2.4mt. *Reserves*: coal — 220mt, *opencast* — 1.6mt, full — 40mt. *Annual contract tonnage*: 11.12mt. *Stocks*: 5.2mt.

□ North East: Northumberland coalfield. Pits: none. *Opencast*: 4.3. *Output*: deep — 0mt, *opencast* — 2.2mt. *Reserves*: coal — 0mt, *opencast* — 12mt, full — 30mt. *Annual*

contract tonnage: 1.7mt. *Stocks*: 1.4mt. □ Scotland: Pits: Longannet. *Open*: 9.8. *Output*: deep — 1.5mt, *opencast* — 3.7mt. *Reserves*: coal — 21mt, *opencast* — 17.2mt, full — 35mt. *Annual contract tonnage*: 2.5-2.8mt. *Stocks*: 0.4mt.

□ South Wales: Pits: Tower, where BC wants to halt production and mothball the pit. *Opencast*: 9.5. *Output*: deep — 0.9mt, *opencast* — 2.4mt. *Reserves*: coal — 2.3mt, *opencast* — 1.9mt, full — 45mt. *Annual contract tonnage*: 1mt. *Stocks*: 1.9mt.

In addition, six mothballed collieries — Goldthorpe, Thorne, Annesley-Bentnck, Ellington, Frances and Kiveton — will be offered for sale.

The five regional companies' assets will include pits and opencast sites,

relevant leases and licences, coal stocks, electricity company contracts already in place, short-term British Coal contracts and the employees, who will be subject to regulations maintaining employment terms and conditions, although ministers yesterday said that it would be for the companies' new owners to decide how many employees were needed.

No employees, coal stocks or supply contracts will be transferred with the mothballed collieries.

In advance of a detailed memorandum in summer, ministers declined yesterday to disclose liabilities — likely to be crucial to sale prospects — attaching to the regional companies or residually held by the Coal Authority, formed to licence mining.

Pennington, page 25

Insurance ombudsman attacks rival

By Sara McConnell and Robert Miller

A DISPUTE has broken out over the role of the new ombudsman to be appointed by the Personal Investment Authority, Julian Farrand, the present insurance ombudsman, told the Commons treasury select committee that the rival ombudsman should only deal with complaints about investments covered by the Financial Services Act and should not handle "pure insurance" issues.

The PIA, the proposed single regulator for all investments sold to the public, wants its ombudsman to have extended powers to decide cases involving "pure insurance issues" such as whether companies can avoid paying out because policyholders have not disclosed medical facts. PIA members would have the option of submitting to the ombudsman in such cases. The ombudsman would have the power to make awards up to £100,000.

It will be compulsory for PIA members to join the PIA scheme for financial services related complaints. Dr Farrand said he was "concerned that, while in principle, this will provide a convenient centralisation for all complaints about long term insurance, in practice it will result in confusion over how the optional extension to the PIA ombudsman's jurisdiction will work". Instead, the insurance ombudsman should deal with pure insurance complaints,

leaving the PIA scheme to handle financial services.

Separately, UK Association of Compliance Officers told the select committee that the duties of compliance officers should be given statutory recognition in the same way as those of appointed actuaries or company secretaries, if self regulation was to succeed.

Life offices and unit trust groups are to contribute to a estimated £55 million to a compensation bill which should have been paid by independent financial advisers to the official Investors Compensation Scheme. It emerged yesterday. This brings the total contributions from life and unit trust groups, above their own contributions, to nearly £30 million.

The ICS announced that it was raising £17.5 million (£17.3 million) for the year March 31 from the five regulatory bodies responsible for policing the financial services industry.

Brian Sharp, of the Association of British Insurers, said: "We had discussions with Fimbra and the ICS but the actual amount owed by Fimbra members to the compensation scheme is greater than we anticipated. It is regrettable that there is a necessity to make these further payments."

Since the ICS was set-up in 1988, compensation totalling £61.7 million has been paid to 6,700 investors.



Sir Colin Chandler, above, chief executive of Vickers, reported yesterday that sales of Rolls-Royce cars in Britain rose more than 50 per cent in the first quarter of the current year. The surge to 143 cars helped push worldwide sales to 351, from 321. Vickers reported recently that Rolls-Royce Cars was

breaking even after two years of heavy losses, helping the company report pre-tax profits of £32.3 million for 1993, against losses of £36.6 million the previous year. □ Jaguar, the luxury car subsidiary of Ford, said it had registered a 12 per cent increase in worldwide sales in the first quarter of 1994.

Confidence 'best since start of recession'

By Ross Treman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence has risen to pre-recession levels, in spite of tax increases this month, according to a survey by Dun & Bradstreet covering 2,000 companies.

Even the beleaguered construction industry seems to be recovering strongly. Among 200 construction firms surveyed, 70 per cent expect higher sales over the coming quarter. 55 per cent expect more new orders and 43 per cent expect to increase profits.

Overall, there are high expectations of increases in sales and profits throughout industry. According to the survey: "Both these key indicators are back to pre-recessionary levels with about seven out of ten companies expecting increases as compared to only one out of ten expecting decreases."

However, Philip Mellor, senior analyst at D&B, cautioned that the figures "mask fundamental weaknesses in the economy". He said that companies were well aware that the economy is too weak to pass on cost increases, resulting in a squeeze on profit margins and investment.

Caution about the strength of the upturn was reinforced by figures from KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, showing a rise in the number of receiverships. By the end of March, KPMG recorded 604 receiverships, up 5.8 per cent on the final quarter of 1993. However, this was 37.5 per cent below the number of receiverships during the same period of 1993.

US conglomerate sells 21% Sedgwick stake

TRANSAMERICA, the US financial conglomerate based in San Francisco, has finally sold its shares in Sedgwick, the insurance broker, nine years after linking with the British group. Transamerica first took a stake in April 1985 when Sedgwick bought the US firm Fred S. James, which was owned by Transamerica. At that point, Transamerica had a 39 per cent holding in Sedgwick which carried 29 per cent of the votes.

It was initially bound by an agreement that barred it from trading the shares for four years and there was speculation that Transamerica would launch a bid for Sedgwick. However, it cut its stake to 25 per cent in March 1991 and further reduced it to the 21 per cent stake which has now been sold. Transamerica sold the 114.5 million shares as part of its long-term policy of pulling out of the property and casualty insurance markets. Sedgwick recently reported a recovery in profits after a steep decline in earnings but did not raise its dividend.

Stock market, page 26

Birkin's pay jumps

TOTAL emoluments of Sir Derek Birkin, executive chairman of RTZ, the mining group, rose 13.14 per cent to £588,681 in the year ended December 31, the annual report shows. Of the total, £69,997 (£42,497) was a bonus payment that was determined by a committee of non-executives and which reflects his personal performance in 1992. Sir Derek and Robert Wilson, the chief executive, say in their joint statement to shareholders that prices of most metals appear to have stopped falling. However, metal prices are likely to be volatile for some time, they add.

Railmen reject strike

MEMBERS of the largest union at British Rail have voted narrowly against striking in protest against changes in working conditions under privatisation. It was revealed last night. The Rail Maritime and Transport Union said that its members had voted by 11,336 to 10,193 against industrial action, including strikes. The union sent out 48,000 ballot papers over the ending of job transfer and promotion rights because of the sell-off of British Rail. The ballot result will be discussed by the union's executive today.

Regina battle goes on

THE bitter war of words between the board of Regina, the Royal Jelly products group, and Shiraz Malik-Noor, its former chairman and chief executive, continued as the company accused him of making "costly mistakes" which it says it can no longer afford. Mr Malik-Noor, who was ousted from the board earlier in the year but still has a 25 per cent shareholding, has called a special shareholders meeting on April 25 in an effort to get himself voted back on to the board along with two associates. The board has again urged shareholders to vote against Mr Malik-Noor.

US prices rise 0.3%

CONSUMER prices in America rose 0.3 per cent last month, the same increase as in February, the US Labour Department said. After stripping out volatile food and energy costs, the so-called core inflation rate also rose 0.3 per cent last month. Consumer prices rose at an annualised rate of just 2.5 per cent in the first quarter, slightly slower than the 2.7 per cent for all of last year. Separately, the Commerce Department said sales at the retail level barely edged up in March. Total retail sales rose by 0.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$182 billion after a revised 1.6 per cent in February.

Pool Re report due

POOL RE, the company that provides reinsurance cover for terrorist attacks in Britain, is to publish its first annual report and accounts next week. Pool Re collects premium income from companies belonging to its reinsurance scheme and is in turn reinsured by the Government as "insurer of last resort". Insurers have picked up the bill for the first £200 million of damage caused by a bomb in the City last April. Industry sources said. Pool Re's premium income would be about £300 million for 1993, and should be enough to pay the balance of claims resulting from the Bishopsgate blast.

Mersey Dock departure

ONE of the men who made a fortune from the sale of Medway Ports, in Kent, has resigned from the board of the group that took over the company, it was announced yesterday. Peter Vincent, who was chief executive at Medway when it was bought by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company for almost £104 million, joined the Mersey board last October after the takeover. He is reported to have made £12 million out of the sale. His current responsibilities for Medway Ports have been assumed by Bernard Cliff, Mersey's port operations director.

Works council law cut back

By James Landale and Philip Bassett

BRITISH business leaders last night welcomed a shift by the European Commission that is likely to reduce sharply the number of UK companies affected by new legislation for consulting employees.

Under the commission's new draft — which European union leaders said might be rejected by the European Parliament — fewer British companies look likely to be affected by proposals requiring establishment of formal,

European-wide machinery for consulting workers about company policy than earlier drafts had suggested.

The changes put flesh on "concessions" on social policy claimed by John Major. After the social protocol opt-out from the Maastricht Treaty negotiated by him, no British-based workers will have a right to a European works council.

British-based transnational companies with more than 1,000 employees and at least

200 in two EU countries will have to comply with the directive, when it is in force. Just over 100 British multinational companies are likely to be affected, instead of 300 as originally intended, because British employees will not now count towards the 1,000 level at which the directive will apply.

Sir Michael Angus, the CBI president, said that the changes were useful, but the directive was still unhelpful to industry's competitiveness.

Rich nations warned on world trade

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH
IN MARRAKESH

CHINA and India issued strong warnings to the developed nations not to use the world trade agreement to dictate global, social and economic standards.

The warnings in formal speeches to the Marrakesh ministerial meeting to sign the Uruguay Round treaty to liberalise world trade and create a World Trade Organisation (WTO) came on the eve of the appearance at the meeting of Al Gore, the American vice-president.

Mr Gore is expected to voice the concern of the American trade unions that freer trade will erode social conditions in the richer countries.

Pranab Mukherjee, the Indian commerce minister, said that the long-term survival of the multilateral trading system would depend upon reducing the inequities between rich and poor nations.

Gu Yongjiang, the Chinese deputy minister, said China strongly endorsed the new world trade agreement and intended to be a founder member of the WTO.

He said China shared the concern of many developing countries about the issues of trade and environment and social aspects of trade.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1993 RESULTS

Year Ended 31st December 1993

| FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS | 1993 | 1992 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| TURNOVER, INCLUDING ASSOCIATES | £3,507.9m | £3,443.3m |
| PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST | £217.7m | £201.0m |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION | £177.8m | £166.4m |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE | 39.4p | 31.2p |

PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND OF 14.4p (1992 - 13.4p)
MAKING A TOTAL FOR THE YEAR OF 21.0p (1992 - 20.0p)
AN INCREASE OF 5% FOR THE YEAR

The 1993 Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 29th April 1994. To reserve a copy, telephone 0932 568833.

RMC Group p.l.c.

RMC House, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe, Egham,
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Operating internationally in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom and the USA.

□ Flak flies over directors' pay □ Problems of debating interest rates in public □ The pits of privatisation

The owner/manager power play

THE idea that any takeover proposal should be subject to the approval of shareholders in the predatory company will, inevitably, raise a few eyebrows in the boardrooms of the UK's more aggressive Plcs. More interesting, and less predictable, will be the response, if any, from City institutions: the principal movers and shakers in any such scenario.

The essential theme in the Social Market Foundation's publication, *Two Cheers for the Institutions*, lies in "redressing" the perceived balance between owners and managers. We are warned that much corporate activity, particularly the "takeover culture", is "fed by ambitions and motives which have little to do with shareholders' interests". According to the study's author, Stanley Wright, it is "too easy to mount a takeover bid; too difficult to change management by other means". As to directors' pay, the SMF's perspective is that there is "little effective constraint" on the remuneration of top management and "too little genuinely independent judgment on management", by advisers and analysts.

The call is for the creation of a new framework — based on existing law and regulatory activity — for "shareholder power and responsibility". And with this, significantly greater "management accountability".

Wright's perspective on management — masters or servants? — is unflattering, to say the least. "Not uncommonly, they vote themselves large and generous remuneration packages, often including secure tenure and sometimes provision for golden parachutes. Meanwhile, they provide themselves with the trappings of power: large offices, secretaries, prestigious motor cars and clouds of advisers and consultants hired at once to flatter their egos and to shelter them from criticism and sometimes from direct contact with the real world."

In the event, Wright admits this is a "deliberately over-painted picture" but, with a more telling brush, points to "a wealth of anecdotal evidence that top management often see companies as 'their' companies and need to be reminded that shareholders are the owners".

Just for good measure, Wright argues that the Cadbury Code of Practice "has probably done more harm than good" in containing top managers' salaries by "placing their remuneration in the hands of non-executive

directors who themselves are often senior managers elsewhere". Senior directors are described as a "self-perpetuating and self-policing elite" using exaggerated demand and restricted supply to "inflate executive pay". Wright's legislative suggestions include proposals that chairmen should be "non-executive" and Plcs should be required to have "not less than two and not more than six non-executive directors".

Alas, Wright has fallen into the Cadbury trap of over-emphasising the "non-executive" role. It is the quality of executive directors that is paramount.

Touching glimpses of the odd couple

DECIDING to publish *Fed-style minutes* of the regular monthly meetings between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George looks exciting but risky. The hope is that by bringing agreement, disagreement, context and nuance into the open, speculation in newspapers and the financial markets about in-



Pennington Tower, the last deep mine in South Wales, by offering to keep it open during the review procedure if miners increase output, as well as taking a pay cut. It would not normally make sense for the Government to rush to close pits it believes may have a future, at the behest of the management of a corporation that will shortly cease to exist. The missing link is privatisation and the perceived need to offer attractive packages of profitable, mostly open cast collieries, free of marginal pits.

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other pits already mothballed or on notice, five near to sale, which are excluded from the five region-by-region, while sales planned for the summer. Due to the "captive" offered by Michael Heseltine after the row over his all-at-once closure programme, the timetable has become hunched. The separate processes of one-off sales and the main privatisation are already getting mixed up to general embarrassment. As a result, for instance, bidding for the two top regions will only be allowed to buy mothballed pits in these areas if they buy both regions. That exposes yet another messy policy conflict. While regional sales are being held to give groups investing managers at least a chance, there still seems a yen to sell the lot to one buyer. Potential British and foreign bidders must be scratching their heads in disbelief.

Mr George nonetheless acknowledged yesterday that it is not comfortable knowing that "people will be able to see which views were wrong and which were right". It can be pretty

the havoc this new openness might wreak on the credibility of monetary policy. One primary dealer said that speculation would simply be turned into fact and, far from reassuring people, make them more nervous.

For inflation warriors, the minutes certainly confirmed what many had suspected, in spite of much talk recently of the increasing influence of the Bank's advice over the Chancellor: that the Chancellor has over-ruled the Governor and no doubt will again. The consolation for both men is that each will have been seen to have fulfilled his main brief. Mr Clarke has long been seen as a man who wants to err on the side of growth, and is not shy about giving this impression. His consistent bias in favour of lower rates confirms this bias. Mr George's statutory duty is to fight inflation and he will be seen publicly to have done his best.

Mr George nonetheless acknowledged yesterday that it is not comfortable knowing that "people will be able to see which views were wrong and which were right". It can be pretty

uncomfortable being seen to have been over-ruled too.

For his part, Mr Clarke betrayed no signs of discomfort that his public statements have been so different from his private ones. In the New Year, he expressed great confidence in the robustness of the recovery. Yet at January's meeting, he said he "was much less sure that the pace of growth had picked up significantly in recent months" than many independent commentators.

Messy endgame for coal

BRITISH Coal's last months seem destined to prove as bizarre as the industry's treatment by the Government has been over the past three years. Tim Eggar, the North-Sea oriented energy minister, still envisages private buyers rescuing a further 28 pits from British Coal, even though the doomed state corporation is only operating 17, primarily because there is no market for the produce any more. Meanwhile, British Coal has capped its efforts to close

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Lasmo seeks £219m to avert sale of prize assets

By CARL MORTSHED

LASMO, the oil exploration group, is asking its shareholders for £219 million in order to reduce its borrowings and save the company from selling off its prize assets.

Details of the rights issue coincided with the disclosure that Chris Greentree, the company's former chief executive, and Michael Pavia, formerly finance director, received a total payoff of almost £3 million, including compensation for loss of office, supplementary pension benefits and repatriation and legal expenses. Lasmo, which last month reported losses for 1993 of £131

million, needs to spend up to £500 million over the next three years to develop new fields such as Liverpool Bay and Andrew and Birch in the North Sea, but the cost could send gearing rocketing to 100 per cent.

Lasmo needs to develop its new low-cost fields in order to bring the company back into profit. The sale of its share of the Ninian field for £84 million this year helped to cut operating costs to £4.10 per barrel. The cash received from that deal and a disposal of part of Liverpool Bay to PowerGen will reduce gearing to 57 per

cent, but Joe Darby, chief executive of Lasmo, said that bringing the new fields into production at current low oil prices could have hurt the company's finances.

The rights issue comes soon after the announcement that Rudolph Agnew is to become chairman next month.

Lasmo shares were steady at 128p, as shareholders were offered new stock at 105p per share on a 2-for-7 basis. Receipt of the cash should bring pro forma gearing down to 35 per cent, including disposal proceeds, but Mr Darby indicated that debt/equity will rise

to nearly 80 per cent on pessimistic forecasts of oil at \$13.

Lasmo's new development account for 28 per cent of its total reserves and Mr Darby indicated that these prospects can be made profitable, even if oil stays in the \$13-\$15 band.

Production is set to rise to 210,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 1996, a 25 per cent increase on current levels. Exploration expenditure is being reduced to just over £50 million, from £84 million in 1993, as Lasmo cuts its cloth to suit the lean environment.

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Hoskyns to create over 350 jobs

HOSKYN'S Group, the computer services company that became the UK operating arm of Cap Gemini Sogeti of France last year, plans to create more than 350 new jobs this year.

(Philip Pangalos writes) The company is seeking systems builders, designers and programmers, IT consultants, project managers, management consultants and sales people. Hoskyns already employs more than 3,500 people.

Net operating profits at Hoskyns rose to £133 million (£8 million) in the year to December 31 and turnover increased 7.7 per cent to £214.8 million.

Strong performance in Germany boosts RMC

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

GERMANY was the profits powerhouse in 1993 for RMC, the ready-mixed concrete supplier, contributing 44 per cent of sales and more than two-thirds of pre-interest profits.

Pre-tax profits rose to £177.8 million after sliding for three consecutive years to £166.4 million in 1992. Jim Owen, chairman, said that eastern Germany resembled "one big building site" and RMC had ridden high on the rebuilding of its infrastructure.

He said that RMC had invested £500 million in eastern Germany since the Berlin Wall came down. The company also benefited from continuing high demand for housing in western Germany,

with the country as a whole contributing profits of £140.6 million (£120.2 million).

The group said that the UK construction industry, particularly housebuilding, started to recover late in 1993. Profits rose from £10.5 million to £34 million. At the start of the recession in the second half of 1992, RMC made UK operating profits of only £1 million on turnover of £450 million.

Overall, profits from ready-mixed concrete and aggregates fell to £94.2 million (£116.5 million), while profits from cement, lime and concrete products rose to £78.4 million (£55.5 million).

Recession made trading difficult elsewhere in continental

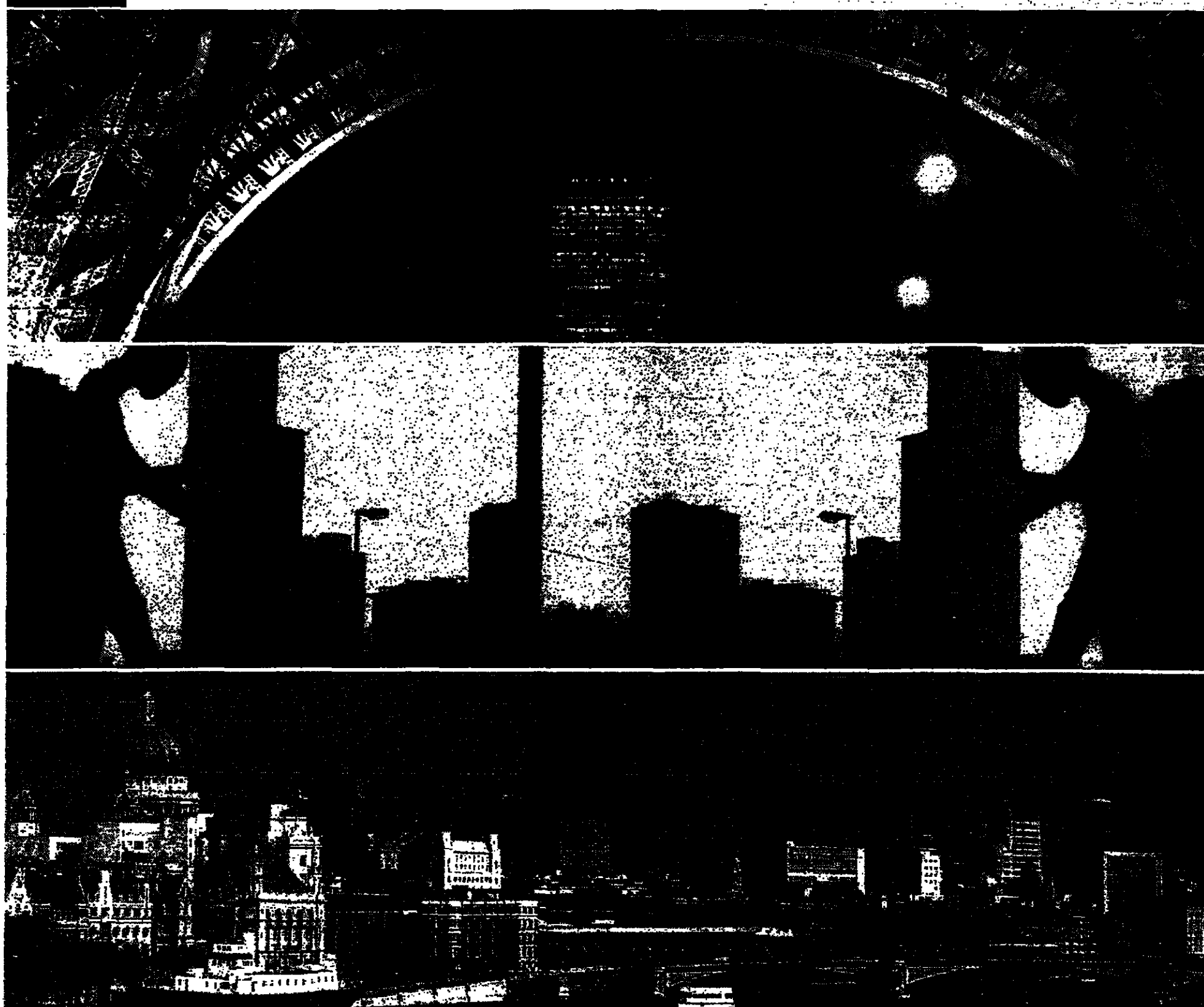
Europe last year, with France, Austria and Spain particularly badly hit. However, RMC's operations on the southeast seaboard of America recovered. Peter Young, managing director, said:

"Apart from its main concrete interests, the company said that its Great Mills do-it-yourself chain, builders' merchants and waste-control activities all increased profits. A record 1.3 million people visited its Thorpe Park leisure complex in 1993."

Earnings per share this time rose to 39.4p (31.2p). The total dividend is 21p (20p) by way of a 14.4p final.

Tempos, page 27

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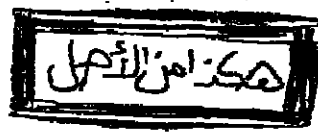


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هكذا آمن الرسول

ECONOMIC VIEW

Tories change tack as Labour starts to impress industry

Janet Bush offers
Stephen Dorrell two
ideas that, more than
any other measures,
could support business
and help to create jobs

On the day of the Downing Street declaration in December, the British Chambers of Commerce invited a group of journalists to a lunchtime meeting. At one point, *The Times* industrial editor asked how the BCC got on with the Labour Party. Christopher Stewart-Smith, BCC's president, replied: "Goodness! That's like asking us if we are talking to Sinn Féin!"

The question repeated, a serious answer was then given. Labour's policies for business and industry are impressive and, in many instances, superior to the approach offered by the Government, the BCC said.

It was an interesting interchange. Many British businessmen still harbour an old-fashioned loyalty to Conservative governments and prejudice against Labour. But the reality is that Labour's moderately hands-on approach nowadays strikes a more favourable chord with those in business and industry than the strict free-market orthodoxy of 1980s Conservatism.

Another reality is that the centre ground, if not the inveterate right wing, of the Conservative Party now knows it. Within weeks of arriving at No 11 Downing Street, Kenneth Clarke delivered the Mansion House speech to assembled financial luminaries and made it plain that, under his Chancellorship, industry would once again be an issue.

Treasury officials believe that Mr Clarke's arrival represents a genuine U-turn from the days when the City and its invisible earnings power eclipsed industry and its visible earnings in the Thatcherite imagination. The most concrete statement of intent is the Government's review of savings and flow of funds, ordered by Mr Clarke last summer and being conducted by Stephen Dorrell, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary.

Speaking at the Confederation of British Industry last month, Mr Dorrell asked for comments on a list of questions that have been discussed ever since the Macmillan committee sat in the early 1930s. Are bank corporate lending departments expecting far too favourable risk/return ratios in far too short a timescale? Are institutional investors too obsessed with high dividend pay-outs at the expense of longer-term investment? What can be done to create a much stronger British *middlestand* of medium-sized companies? In other words, is the City and the stock market-based financial system really serving business and industry as effectively as it should?

The fact that such questions are being asked is clearly a change from the last Conservative manifesto, the business section of which was short on policies and long on Thatcherite mantras such as inward investment, competition and deregulation. Now, Mr Dorrell, himself a businessman with a family working in the City, has said that the Treasury is prepared to use the tax system to effect change, if it is needed. In an interview with *The Times*, he refreshingly asserted that "ideology has no part to play in economics".

There is much that is both welcome and saddening about all this. The sad part is that Thatcherite ideology pooh-poohed widespread criticism of the financial system's ability to nurture business, siding with the City at every



Stephen Dorrell wants to know whether the City is serving industry and business as well as it should be.

turn, except when the "teenage scribblers" undermined sterling. Supply-side reform simply meant tearing apart the unions and rolling back the frontiers of the state. After 14 years, this is now suddenly no longer thought good enough.

The Treasury says it wants to be an economics ministry in the broader sense and many of its structural/financial concerns now seem little different from those long expressed by the Labour Party. Manufacturing matters as well as services, investment matters, it matters that small and medium-sized companies do not always have access to flexible and cheap enough finance. Britain's chronic skills gap now matters.

The need for better training, the battle cry of the Labour Party for years, has rather laughably been hailed by the Government as a radical new initiative. Take the recent announcement by David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, of a new £1.25 billion apprenticeship scheme. "It is an exciting new concept," Mr Hunt said. Apprenticeships, of course, have been a traditional part of industry for centuries. It was only in the 1980s that they were no longer thought important enough to pay for. It has been the Conservatives who have opposed imposing a levy on companies who fail to train.

Admitting that government has a role to play in brokering a better relationship between the City and industry may be fiercely opposed by people such as John Redwood and Michael Portillo, and Mr Dorrell's speech to the Confederation of British Industry was carefully peppered with the language of the free market. The development of a policy on savings and investment must be "business led", he said.

And there are still differences between the Government and Labour. The Conservatives are still opposed to

tax policies that skew investment towards chosen areas. Remember the 1970s project called Equity Capital for Industry? The committee sat for six months deciding what to invest in. It then picked two businesses with much fanfare and one of them had gone under within six weeks.

Mr Dorrell said that he was not enthused with the idea of a National Investment Bank because such an institution can so easily deteriorate into a political exercise of buying votes in marginal constituencies. But he is talking about readjusting the taxation carrots and sticks that set the tone and behaviour of bankers and investors. Is it right, for example, that investment in pension funds attracts hardly any tax, while direct investment in ordinary shares costs far more in tax terms?

As Mr Dorrell put it at the CBI: "Are the differences in the tax treatment of different types of capital a significant influence in practice in the financing of British business? If they are, are those factors malign or benign?" The current review rules nothing out, including the question of whether taxing dividends may discourage companies from making very high dividend pay-outs.

One area of concern is the financing of small and medium businesses and this seems an area where the speediest practical solutions may be found. The Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts are two new mechanisms already announced.

The Government is clearly prepared to give a lead, but it is looking to financial practitioners to help to come up with solutions too. Mr Dorrell expresses faith in the ability of sophisticated capital markets to develop different types of shareholders and instruments to inject finance into the small and medium-sized business sector.

It remains to be seen whether anything but radical regulatory and tax changes initiated by government will

make the difference. Britain's financial culture is entrenched and in many ways flexible and efficient. Banks and pension funds have no incentive to change their behaviour. Nevertheless, businessmen who have talked to Treasury officials involved in the review believe that there is a seriousness in Whitehall about these issues.

Mr Dorrell has asked for the widest possible comment, so here are just two suggestions that would arguably be much more effective than any other measure to support business and create jobs. The first comes courtesy of Anthony Harris, *The Times* columnist, which may be called the Harris Law of Banking. This would end the privileged position of banks at the top of every creditor list when a business goes under. Make banks equal creditors to the business's suppliers, customers and shareholders and they would think twice before pulling the plug.

The second, which has widespread support among experts, is for the income tax and national insurance systems to be merged. National insurance is no less than a subsidy for the abolition of full-time jobs and social security and the rest cannot go on being funded at the expense of employment.

More because of circumstances than design, Britain may for once have a recovery that is forced to rely more on investment and exports than consumer spending. To maximise this tantalising potential must be an absolute priority.

Mr Dorrell absolutely rejects the notion that his review is no more than a talking shop and says that its conclusions will find their way into future budgets. With these thorny problems on the agenda since at least the 1930s, policy changes that make a difference really would be a victory for the death of ideology.

TEMPUS

Righting Lasmo

THE key to transforming a bear stock into a recovery story is to time your rights issue well, and, after a damaging year of write-downs, management turmoil and punishment from oil analysts, Lasmo seems to have called for its cash on cue. Priced at a 19 per cent discount to the market price, one might have expected the shares to sag but the market is now looking forward.

Shareholders really have little choice but to take up their rights. Even after the heavy discount, Lasmo is probably issuing paper at or just above its net asset value per share, which means that investors who subscribe will, in theory, not be diluted. Without the cash, Lasmo would still be able to develop Liverpool Bay and Andrew, but gearing would be set to rise to well above 100 per cent over the next two years. The likely ensuing

scenario would be more asset sales, leaving shareholders with a stark choice: pay up now, or we will sell the crown jewels.

Recent events give grounds for hope: operating costs are down thanks to the sale of Ninian, and more than a quarter of the commercial reserves are still undeveloped. But with low oil prices and the burden of heavy depreciation on its higher cost fields, Lasmo will struggle to break even this year, pushing real recovery back to 1996 and beyond. That will not dissuade Lasmo's American friends who like the cash flow and production profile, but even flush with cash, Lasmo faces problems. Like all exploration companies, it must replace its production with new reserves. Finding oil is one thing, but replacing value at the current low oil price is more difficult and raises long-term problems for Lasmo as well as its peers.

RMC Group

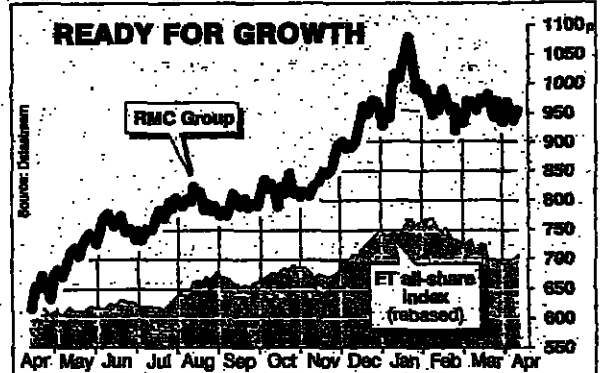
RMC's investments in Germany have paid off in spades, generating two-thirds of last year's operating profit. An added attraction has been the fiscal incentives available in former East Germany, that combined with the steady absorption of tax losses means that profits earned in Germany contribute more pre-tax profits than only 7 per cent while earnings per share jumped more than a quarter, enabling RMC to surprise with a lift in the divi.

The market still likes the building materials story and RMC is no exception, with profits of £215 million-plus pencilled in by some analysts for the current year, but the City's enthusiasm is built on something less firm than concrete. The West German building boom is slowing

down and while volumes are still increasing in the East, prices are under pressure from subsidised cement imports from Poland and the Czech Republic.

Germany will contribute a smaller share of RMC's bottom line this year. With the rest of Europe looking gloomy, that leaves the UK as the main engine of its expected

surge in 1994. Price rises on ready-mix and cement pushed through this year seem to be holding, but the housing market is hardly booming and the commercial market is still looking sick. The outlook is far from bleak, but after yesterday's share price rise, investors are paying a premium price for profits two years out.



Smiths Inds

SMITHS Industries yesterday delivered what it has long preached: strength of cash flow and growth in net earnings being the acid test of management.

Judged on its own criteria, Smiths passed the test for the half year with cash from operations up at £57.3 million (£51.9 million), and a 13 per cent lift in net earnings from 9.2p to 10.4p a share. The dividend is a useful 7 per cent higher at 4.6p a share.

Life is still tough in the aerospace market, where margins are "only" 8 per cent. But what the peace dividend takes from defence budgets it promises to pay back as spending on health care rises.

Medical businesses continue to generate respectable 20 per cent returns, and remain the dominant profit earners while margins on industrial operations have improved from 13 per cent to 14 per cent.

Having expanded its heating interests with last week's takeover of Tulco of America, and still left with money in the bank, further add-on

deals are likely. Not only are asking prices for medical/industrial concerns more in line, with Smiths' ideas about price, but buying well ahead of what management believes will be sunny days in the late 1990s would be typical Smiths' style. Even an aerospace deal might be considered.

The shares have made steady progress since 1990, when they traded at 193p; and yesterday were a further 15p higher at 485p.

On the grounds that there should be further net earnings growth come year end, they still rate a buy.

Accounting

SIXTY SEVEN black-edged pages of application notes in the ASB's latest financial reporting standard testify to the increasing antagonism between the board and some listed companies. The board's early ideal that standards should stick to principle and leave it to practitioners and auditors to do the decent thing, is breaking down. The notes are issued by request but the board knows that means highly paid advisers are al-

ready looking for arcane new ways of keeping obligations off the balance sheet that will be within the letter if not the spirit of FRSS.

David Tweedie, the board's chairman, counters by insisting that any new wheezes will be sent straight to the urgent issues task force for a ruling, with the implication that any costly search for loopholes will not be worth the candle. But the battle is on and it is significant that several concessions have been wrung from the standard-setters since the first proposals.

In many cases the purpose of these off-balance-sheet devices is to hide problems, which in several cases led to spectacular and unexpected collapses. Avoiding that is one of the main purposes of the new accounting standards. In other cases, managements resort to artificial schemes to kid the investment community that gearing is lower, because investors and commentators take a more cautious view than management. This gap is better dealt with by persuasion than the hitherto easy option of concealment.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Purves sees salary halved

SIR William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings, parent of Midland Bank, was understandably reluctant to relocate from Hong Kong to London last year. Back East, he was god and king, holding two of the three most important jobs in the colony, as chairman of Hongkong Bank and chairman of the Jockey Club (the other is Governor), while in London he is just another bank chairman. But the drawbacks are not just in his diminished status. In losing his expatriate salary package, I hear that his pay is being halved. Sir William enjoyed a £1.061 million pay package last year, of which £424,000 was expatriate benefits, including having his tax paid by the bank. This year, he will find himself £500,000 a year worse off. When he relocated to London in October, the bank's remuneration committee set up a UK salary package which, it says, is "competitive in the market place". I am reliably informed that Sir William, a conserva-

tive chap, did not want to see his own remuneration pushed beyond reasonable limits. However, he can afford to be generous. At 62, he has just cashed in his pension with the bank's expatriate offshore pension scheme, described as "a substantial sum" by those in the know.

THREE chefs from the town of Gorlovka in the Ukraine are visiting its twin town, Barnsley, south Yorkshire, to learn how to make Yorkshire pudding. The Ukrainians hope to open an English-style restaur-

ant, *The Cafe Barnsley*, which will serve roast beef, apple tarts and custard, as well as other favourites.

Pay slip-up

POOR old Laura Ashley. Just as the company's 3,500 UK employees were preparing for their Easter break, an apologetic memo came round from Jim Maxmin, chief executive, informing them that the monthly pay cheques would be delayed due to "a computer error". Midland Bank would be able to provide limited cash

advances to tide them over Easter, but the news, I gather, went down like a slap in the face. "The error was not Laura Ashley's," blusters a spokeswoman. "It was a human error by the company we use." Maxmin will soon wash his hands of such problems. He steps down as chief executive next month.

Banking on India

SRI and Gopi Hinduja, number 8 on *The Sunday Times* list of Britain's wealthiest people — their fortune is believed to top £1.35 billion — have been instrumental in opening the first private bank in India in almost 40 years. The bank, named IndusInd, was inaugurated this week by India's finance minister, Manmohan Singh, with an initial capital of one billion rupees (£22 million). It was launched by a consortium of expatriate Indians led by the Hinduja family, which trades in everything from oil to cars, from offices in London's Haymarket. The bank aims to channel funds from people of Indian origin living overseas and provide capital for options, swaps and

loan syndications. The Hinduja family is a force to be reckoned with, counting Baroness Thatcher and George Bush among their contacts, but even they are not immune to tragedy. Sri's heir, Dharam, died by setting fire to himself in Mauritius in 1992, after falling out with the family over his choice of bride.

Ethnic theme

STILL on an Indian theme, curry and stringed instruments were all the rage at Robert Fleming yesterday, as the investment house took the lid off its latest dish, the Fleming Indian Investment Trust. A three-piece band, led by Kiranpal Singh, on the Santoor — a 100 stringed zither from the Valley of Kashmir — filled Fleming's head office with haunting strains, while the cooks did their bit by serving up curry in the staff canteen. Flemings, one may recall, celebrated the recent launch of its China trust by installing a rickshaw in the atrium, reasoning that a Chinese junk was simply too large.

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Added Value
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Smiths Industries lifts profits with help from acquisitions

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SMITHS Industries, the aerospace, medical systems and industrial group, remains in acquisitive mood. Roger Hurn, the chairman and chief executive, said yesterday. Last week, Smiths finalised a \$32 million cash deal to buy Tutco, the largest American producer of heating elements.

Just over a year ago, Smiths made two other sizeable acquisitions, though Mr Hurn noted that it had been at least two years since Smiths had made an aerospace acquisition. I would not rule out an aerospace deal, he said.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 29 rose from £40.3 million to £46 million, on a turnover of £351 million (£328 million). Net interim earnings rose from 9.2p to 10.4p a share, and the dividend is lifted from 4.3p to 4.6p a share.

While profits benefited to some extent from earlier acquisitions, there was genuine organic profits growth of around 6 per cent in the period, Mr Hurn said.

Medical systems generated pre-interest profits of £18.7 million (£16.1 million), profits from industrial interests jumped from £8.6 million to £11.7 million, and aerospace profits advanced from £13.9 million to £14.1 million.

The results show that Smiths Industries continues to perform strongly in its three



Roger Hurn, chairman and chief executive, did not rule out the possibility of an aerospace acquisition for Smiths

well-defined market sectors," Mr Hurn said.

Cash flow was again strong. Net cash balances were £32 million at the start of the period and £62 million at the end, despite £9 million of deferred acquisition costs.

Growth in the US commercial aerospace industry is

probably still more than a year away, Mr Hurn said, but the industrial division is benefiting from improved trading conditions, and the medical systems division was encouraging for the future.

Mr Hurn was especially

positive about Britain, noting that in all his business life never had so many positive factors come together as they have now. Interest rates, inflation, working costs, labour relations, tax rates — they all put Britain in "super shape, and make the UK a jolly good

place to manufacture". If we hold our nerve, then the second half of the 1990s will be a purple patch in Britain, Mr Hurn said.

The company's shares rose 11p to 481p.

Tempus, page 27

ASB clamps down on reporting of debts

By SARAH BAGNALL

A NEW accounting standard published today prevents companies from concealing their debts from shareholders and from bolstering their profits by using off-balance sheet finance.

As a result, borrowing levels of British companies could soar and profits could sag.

Financial Reporting Standard 5, *Reporting the Substance of Transactions*, the latest foray into cleaning up company accounts by the Accounting Standards Board, aims to stop companies from spiriting away debts and inflating profits by techniques such as sale and leasebacks, factoring, leasing and securitisation.

David Tweedie, ASB chairman, said: "It won't be popular. People will be trying to ease past the rules all the time."

However, if the merchant banks dream up new schemes, the new standard will be amended swiftly and easily to outlaw them.

Other schemes are thought to exist already, but identifying them is a problem. Overall, Mr Tweedie believes that there are "billions of pounds involved" in off-balance sheet schemes. Queens Moat Houses, the hotel group, Rosehaugh, the property company, and Burton Group and Storehouse, the retailers, made extensive use of off-balance sheet schemes.

Queens Moat Houses sold and lease-backed five hotels and two offices with a total value of £66 million. However, QMH had an option to buy them back later, an option that looked certain to be triggered. So QMH effectively was the owner in spite of the sale, but had managed, by the transaction, to reduce its gearing from 62 per cent to 56 per cent.

Under the new rules, which come into effect for years ending on or after September 22, 1994, these properties would remain on the balance sheet and the sale proceeds could not be booked as a profit but would be a liability.

Tempus, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Paramount Airways case set for Lords appeal

THE House of Lords is to hear an appeal in the Paramount Airways case which has important repercussions for the liabilities of administrators and receivers who have acted in company rescues prior to the change in the law rushed through last month. The petition of appeal to the Lords by Roger Powdrill and Joseph Beaumont, Paramount administrators, was lodged by the April 12 deadline. No date has yet been fixed for the hearing of the appeal by the law lords.

In July last year, Mr Justice Evans-Lombe ruled that the administrators had adopted the employment contracts of Paramount employees, most of whom were made redundant when no buyer was found for the company after a rescue attempt lasting three months. Employees of the airline claim that under the 1986 Insolvency Act they are entitled to damages for termination of employment, holiday and pension payments from the administrators. In February, the Court of Appeal dismissed the initial appeal by the administrators.

Wehmler down by half

BARRY Wehmler International, the packaging and machinery group, has held its interim dividend at 2.4p a share. Pre-tax profits halved to £1.65 million from £3.2 million in the six months to January 31, with the group blaming weak first-quarter orders at those businesses dependent on European demand. However, directors said that orders had risen sharply since December. Earnings per share in the period fell from 5p to 2.4p.

Shares in Sims fall

SHARES in Sims Food Group, the meat processor and supplier, fell 21p to 82p yesterday as it disclosed that publicity over BSE "mad cow" disease had hit beef demand in the first quarter of 1993. It said gross margins were being squeezed due to its inability to pass on seasonal raw material price rises to food retailers. Sims said, however, that it would still achieve a small pre-tax profit for the year to March 31, 1994. The company made a £1.3 million loss at the half-way stage.

T. Cowie name change

SHAREHOLDERS in T. Cowie, the automotive dealer and finance company, agreed to change its name to Cowie Group after the retirement of Sir Tom Cowie, the founder. Sir James McKinnon, the chairman, described trading at the group in the first quarter of 1994 as "strong and comfortably ahead of the position at this time last year". He said the group's core businesses all constituted a solid foundation for future profitability. The shares rose 7p to 312p.

Aitken Hume sells bank

AITKEN Hume International, the private banking group, is selling its loss-making Aitken Hume Bank to Secure Trust Group, the financial services group based in Birmingham. The price will be a maximum of £10.5 million, depending on how successful the new owners are in recovering problem loans. Secure Trust is selling 442,500 new shares to raise £2.5 million towards the purchase price. Aitken Hume Bank has incurred losses in each of the past three financial years.

Michelin skids into the red by Fr3.67bn

MICHELIN, the French tyre company, lost Fr3.67 billion in 1993, compared to profits of Fr79 million in 1992. Group sales, at Fr63.3 billion, were down by 5.3 per cent in 1993.

The downturn was due to a "sharp fall in activity" in the automobile sector which, the company said, began in mid-1992 and "became more serious at the beginning of 1993".

However, financial expenses were reduced by 7 per cent compared with the previ-

ous year, mainly due to a fall in interest rates. The result was also affected by expenditure arising from restructuring ordered in April 1993.

Sales in the first quarter of 1994 showed a marked improvement, notably in North America, the company said.

Compagnie Générale des Etablissements Michelin, the group's parent company, will not propose a dividend for the year at the general assembly scheduled for June 24.

N&P taking over distributor

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

NURDIN & Peacock, the cash-and-carry group, is buying the M6 cash-and-carry division of Fitzwilliam for £21.9 million, and has announced a 6.5 per cent rise in 1993 profits.

The cash-and-carry division being bought is a wholesale food distributor consisting of Roy Hall Cash & Carry, Brook Holdings, Brook & Co (Wholesale Grocers), Elkshire, M6 Cash & Carry, and Adidem. It has depots ranging from Manchester, Leeds and Bradford to

Crewe and Blackburn. In 1993, the division made pre-tax profits of £412,000 on turnover of £206.7 million.

N&P said that the purchase for cash would enable it to grow its core business. The M6 group will operate on a stand-alone basis before integration into the N&P network in the medium term.

Alex Rentoul, N&P's commercial director, said that the acquisition strengthened the group's position as the UK's

leading membership-based discounted goods distributor. He said: "The M6 Group network fits very well with our existing branch distribution."

The overlap is minimal. N&P, in 1993, increased taxable profits to £32.1 million (£30.2 million), with earnings per share up to 17.6p (17p). A 4.44p final dividend makes 6.5p, up 6.2 per cent.

The group opened its first cargo warehouse club, in Croydon, last month.

Tempus, page 27

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ACCOUNTANCY

Time to break down barriers

Nigel Macdonald puts forward an alternative to the ICAEW's ideas for restructuring the profession

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS) does not claim that the existing structure of the profession is perfect.

But, given the history of failed merger attempts and the unrealistic nature of the assumption that accountants in such diverse fields as management accounting, financial accounting, taxation, the public sector, audit and insolvency will ever be able to "speak with one voice", it is unreasonable to suppose that the current proposals will succeed.

A better solution exists, namely improving substantially co-operation between the bodies. Unfortunately, the profession's co-ordinating body, CCAB, is not at present structured to encourage this to happen.

It is not independent, because its constitution gives significant advantage to one body and effectively prevents collective initiatives, unless they are designed to respond to common external threats.

That is why ICAS welcomed the challenge of working with the other members of CCAB to consider ways in which the profession might be restructured. The terms of reference

required two approaches to be considered, but only the rationalisation concept has been discussed. The rationalisation proposals explicitly acknowledge that there may be other solutions.

ICAS does not believe that these proposals are in the public interest, or that of the profession. By the time of implementation, if the existing proposals were to be accepted, the likely size of the new English and Welsh body would be about 200,000 members and the Scottish and Irish bodies 18,500 and 13,000 respectively, all exclusive of students.

We believe the new ICAEW would be unmanageable by virtue of its size and would contain within its membership large groups of accountants of very disparate, and sometimes conflicting, interests.

The ability to reflect these diverse interests would be constrained, even given the specialist boards which, it is proposed, should represent them. Inevitably, the ruling council would prefer to give the (false) impression of a united "one-voiced" profession. It is not clear which voice would ultimately dominate.

Further, the sheer size of the



Nigel Macdonald says the "one voice" plan is unrealistic

body created would enlarge the gap between member and institute. The specialisms of the members of the existing bodies, which are the true strength of the British and Irish professions, unmatched elsewhere in Europe, would be submerged. Yet, the administrative support costs of the proposed internal boards would replace most, if not all,

the savings flowing from the reduction of the number of bodies from six to three. We also believe that public recognition of these specialisms would be confused by the adoption of the common designation "chartered accountant".

ICAS is also concerned that the rationalisation proposals stem essentially from fear of competition, both within the

present structure and from outside and from a stated wish to limit the number of entrants to the profession. We believe that the correct way for the present oversupply of accountants to be resolved is to allow market forces to work.

The creation of an effective monopoly would not be in the public interest. Rationalisation would also lead to a fall in standards, as the new bodies sought, in vain, to provide truly specialist qualifications under an umbrella of a common qualification. The profession has been strengthened by competition for the "best" students and distinctive professional qualifications that best meet the different needs of the market.

We believe that a better way forward is for the six existing bodies to retain their present identities, but to break down barriers and work more closely together, within a new, continued, independent and effective CCAB.

This would retain the present benefits of competition in education and research, which are vital to the development of the profession, and of identifiable specialisms, such as audit, management accounting and public sector accounting. We should learn from the lesson of British Leyland.

Nigel Macdonald, immediate past president of ICAS, represents that body on the Bishop working party.

Battle to be voice of the tax practitioner

TAX practitioners always complain, quite rightly, that the tax system is horribly over-complex. But as things are developing, they could themselves be accused of over-complexity in the way the organisation themselves.

Both the long-established and venerable Institute of Taxation and its upstart competitor, the tax faculty of the English ICA, are going stride for stride for the status of "the voice of the tax practitioner".

The latest moves in this competition are both in favour of the IOT. In the course of the past couple of weeks, it has been granted a Royal Charter and has announced a link-up with the Scots ICA to provide tax training for Scots chartered accountants.

The charter in particular is seen as creating a solidly in the IOT's standing. Malcolm Gammie, its current president, told its spring conference that "we could have no clearer acknowledgement of the tax profession and of the standing and reputation of this institute — of the esteem in which it is held, of the quality of its examinations and of the prestige that its qualification provides to all who aspire to join the tax profession".

Meanwhile, the forthcoming annual report of the English ICA's tax faculty will tell its members that "the most striking development of 1993 has been the way in which the faculty's influence with the Government, MPs, Customs & Excise, the Inland Revenue and other relevant government departments has grown". In other words, the faculty is fighting back.

The central point of this battle is the right to examine members and confer qualifications. Currently, it is the IOT that can examine. But the faculty is still, despite opposition from grassroots English ICA membership, aiming for that route also. Meanwhile, the IOT has to maintain its existing position as the only examining body for the tax profession. It came as no surprise to find Gammie telling his members that "the debate within other professional bodies of the need for their members to have satisfactory tax qualifications bears out our claim for recognition".

Certainly that is the line that the Scots ICA has now taken. In future both the Scots and IOT will work closely together. The Scots will recommend the IOT qualification to its membership as the tax qualification choice. They will work together on member services

and they will present joint representations to the tax authorities. At a time when, theoretically, the accounting bodies are trying to move closer it is interesting to see that when an alternative solution makes sense, at least the Scots are willing to pursue it. And why not. The English ICA's tax faculty is limited to English chartered accountants and in its early stage of development has to get everything up and running.

The IOT has been galvanised by the competition and is now using all its strengths: it covers all tax practitioners. Gammie, for example, is a lawyer, a partner with Linklaters & Paines. And, as he has shown, the IOT can be very effective with its criticisms of how tax is formulated and administered.

It was Gammie, for example, who noticed that the Finance Bill was only shorter than last year's because the Government had upped the page size and crammed many more words and clauses on to each. Now the Finance Bill is "an abomination", he will tell you. He has two areas of criticism. First that the tax authorities are not up to the changes. "The length of the Finance Act", he told the spring conference, "does matter if it reflects an amount of change that is beyond the grasp of those that must handle it within the time allowed".

His point is that it is unfair to the Inland Revenue. "Whatever our difficulties in understanding and dealing with these rules, the revenue departments themselves have a few problems, at a time when the organisation and, it seems, even the identity of the departments is under review. The widespread recent criticism that the Inland Revenue itself cannot get to grips with the system is no cause for satisfaction."

His second criticism dismisses the idea that tax is complex because of a duel between Government and tax practitioners. "The complexity of the tax system stems from what you are trying to tax and how you set about doing so. If you try to tax something that is difficult to tax, the system will become increasingly complex as year after year you try to defend the integrity of the system."

This is the sort of fundamental analysis which can change entrenched views. It is the sort of analysis which has put the IOT into its current strong position.



ROBERT BRUCE

Coming out in the wash

CROSS an accountant with a typewriter and you get... a potential best-selling novel. Patrick McHugh, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand, has teamed up with Paul Hannon, a financial journalist, to pen *The Chain Imperative*, hailed as the first British business novel to examine links between management theory and manufacturing practice. As the dust cover tells us, the book is "a gripping story of how a single family used a

humble washing machine to set in motion a revolutionary management concept that would evolve over several generations". The authors pitch the characters against "ruthless competitors, global economic depression and world war". But will they make a mini-series?

April small

ERNST & Young partners have been scratching their

heads over an internal guidance note which gives warning that the expression "small companies" is set to be outlawed. This stems from a case before the European Court, brought, according to the note, by a Greek dwarf who aspired to be a professional basketball player but was rejected because of his height (he is only 93 centimetres tall). E&Y says the application is likely to succeed, bringing immediate benefits to one of its (similarly short)

technical partners who always wanted to be a policeman. Another hopes references to "fat companies" will be outlawed. All nonsense of course. The note was issued on April Fool's Day, but there is a fairly good chance that some partners fell for it.

Shaping up

SHEILA Masters, partner with KPMG Peat Marwick, is set to make it two in a row with the

1994 annual conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, to be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on June 23. As conference working party chairman for the second year, Masters reports good bookings, with about 600 members due to attend, compared with just over 500 last year. The theme? "Shaping up for Growth". Speakers include Bill Cash MP and David Tweedie, Accounting Standards Board chairman. Tickets £99 plus VAT.

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THEATRE page 34

No illusions about life:
Philip Ridley's new play
about the changed face
of London's East End

ARTS

OPERA page 35

A normal father-son
relationship? Scottish
Opera's new production
of Peter Grimes



CINEMA: Geoff Brown takes to the air with *Fearless*, but cannot find the point of *Widows' Peak*

Flier in the ointment

Another film joins the list of those unlikely to be in-flight movies. *Fearless* begins with strewn plane wreckage, bleeding passengers, orphans, a cast-off boot: a marvellous sequence that immediately shows the director Peter Weir back on top form after the flimsy *Green Card*.

Nightmare memories puncture the lives of two survivors, Jeff Bridges and Rosie Perez. Both react to their ordeal in different ways. Bridges, an architect, went into the crash shaking and emerges with steel nerves, eerily convinced of his immortality. Perez, a spunky young mother, loses her son and withdraws behind a wall of grief and guilt. A cuddly therapist specialising in post-traumatic stress (John Turturro) hopes each might heal the other.

Even if you have no fear of flying, this is scarcely the film to bring a spring to your step. The central issue is mortality, and the characters' dance with

death leads them down some peculiar alleys for a mainstream American film. Distanced from his family and work, Bridges spends time defying fate, walking into traffic, standing on roof edges, crashing his car (with Perez a passenger). By the end, when the original air disaster is recreated, the soundtrack responds to Górecki's chart-topping Third Symphony, signalling spiritual uplift.

With a lesser director and inferior players, *Fearless* might well have succumbed to the morbid pretensions of the script Rafael Yglesias drew from his own novel. There are still bumpy stretches, but the film always stays airborne. Bridges subtly suggests a man whose mind has been yanked elsewhere by events; while

Rosie Perez and Isabella Rossellini give impassioned performances as the women caught in his wake.

Working hand in glove with his cameraman Allen Daviau, Peter Weir creates unsettling sequences throbbing with visual power. If all of *Fearless* marched its beginning and end, we might be hailing a masterpiece.

Tom & Viv is no carnival of laughs, either. Two brilliant people locked in a destructive marriage. Erratic behaviour. Extreme menstrual pains. Involuntary commitment to an asylum. Tom — T.S. Eliot — emerges from the ordeal as the world's best living poet. Viv — his first wife and champion, Vivienne — ends her days alone, incarcerated.

Arriving hard on the heels

of *Shadowlands*, this absorbing British film of Michael Hastings's play can only refuse the current debate about cinema distorting recent history. Fears have been expressed that Eliot (played by William Dafoe) might appear as the villain. True, this American in London acts like the cold fish *par excellence*, emotions hidden behind tight lips, horn-rimmed glasses, pin-stripe suit and a monotonous voice. But the film, directed by Brian Gilbert, suggests he is as much a prisoner as the wife he helped incarcerate for "moral lunacy".

In any event, it is Miranda Richardson's Viv who takes centre stage. Giving her best film performance since *Dance With a Stranger* nine years ago, Richardson makes Viv a most tantalising, dangerous live-wire. While doctors waffle about "intestinal catarrh", Viv's stability is increasingly shaken by headaches, stomach pains and harmful medicines. She helps Eliot with his poems, "The Waste Land" included, yet the more he ascends into the literary firmament, the more she becomes a social liability. Bloomsbury ladies threatened with a knife. Molten chocolate is poured through the letterbox at Eliot's workplace, Faber & Faber. We watch transfixed, and saddened.

Since the story stretches from the 'teens to the 1940s, the period cars, teapots and clothes are out in force once again. But they never become a dead weight. Director Brian Gilbert cuts to the heart of the matter: a fierce relationship that, for all the love, can never succeed. This is a film you must take on the chin, misery, good acting and all.

"They shouldn't have put

him in the water, if they didn't want him to make waves": a masterly poster slogan, although the waves Bruce Willis produces in *Striking Distance* look like bath ripples. This is a vegetable-soup film, cooked from leftovers by the director Rowdy Herrington: a maverick hero going to seed (guess who), a shapely female sidekick, a serial killer, police corruption, and enough red herrings to clog the Atlantic.

Willis, a former homicide detective denoted to the River Rescue patrol, parades his two basic expressions, the smirk and the sneer, while Sarah Jessica Parker and the rest struggle to make something from nothing. Other movies, such as the *Die Hard* series, at least serve their vegetable soup piping hot. *Striking Dis-*

tance will scald nobody's tongue.

In *Stalingrad* the temperature drops further still as the German army becomes bogged down in ice, snow and general futility during the winter of 1942. "We'll take that city in three days!" a soldier chirps during the train journey up from sunny Italy. But "Ivan" proves no pushover, and Hitler's army endures their first massive defeat of the Second World War. Some 350,000 Germans will die in the slaughter; fewer than 6,000 will make it back home.

This ambitious German film, directed largely on Czech locations by Josef Vilsmaier, a former cameraman, has little to offer visual gourmets. The first hour is green and grey; the colours of helmets, uni-

forms, rubble, illuminated briefly by the yellow-flares of explosions. When white snow arrives you feel like jumping for joy. Dramatically, too, Vilsmaier keeps things plain and simple. War is hell. War is stupid. This we know before.

Yet for all the film's stolid bearing, *Stalingrad* does ultimately repay attention. Two genuinely exciting sequences stand out: one depicts a Russian tank attack deflected by Germans crouched in the snow, the other desperate troops trying to board the last German plane out. The characters have an off-the-peg feel, though Thomas Kretschmann and company wear their clichés well.

This is more than can be said for the ladies buried in *Widows' Peak*, a redundant

comedy-mystery which wastes Joan Plowright, Mia Farrow, Natasha Richardson and director John Irvin, not to mention our time. At an Irish spa resort in the late 1920s, widows and spinster play games of concealment and deceit. But it is hard for audiences to join in: we are too busy yawning.

White Angel, a first feature from 24-year-old Chris Jones, winner of an award from the Prince of Wales's Youth Business Trust, at least deserves points for low-budget enterprise. This is a tale of serial killings in outer London, of Peter Firth's meek dentist who lodges with a crime writer (Harriet Robinson) and mixes ant powder with sugar. Jones may well improve in time, but at the moment he remains at the bludgeoning stage. A foot treads the stairs. A hand presses the banister. The doorknob turns, and... *aaaaargh!*



Jeff Bridges walks away unscathed but unhinged from an air crash in *Fearless*

"GREAT. A REMARKABLE FILM."

— Richard Schickel, TIME MAGAZINE

"Spellbinding. Astonishing. 'Fearless' soars! Bridges' portrayal ranks with the year's finest."

— Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"Stunning filmmaking. Hypnotic."

— Terrence Rafferty, THE NEW YORKER

"Awesome. Audacious. Bridges is a wonder."

— Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"Rare. Hypnotic. Weir is a gifted stylist."

— David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"Extraordinary! Original. Superbly acted."

— Bob Campbell, NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

"A dynamite movie! Terrific performances."

— Pia Lindstrom, WNBC-TV

"Fascinating. Compelling. One of Bridges' finest."

— Jack Matthews, NEWSDAY

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Today, America celebrates the centenary of the first paying cinema audience

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Europe plans to commemorate the centenary of cinema next year. America, however, celebrates today. On April 14, 1894, the first spectators in the world paid to see photographic moving pictures, shown by the Kinetoscope, the latest wizardry of America's superstar inventor Thomas Alva Edison.

A world celebrity, Edison no longer concerned himself with the gritty labours of invention. Having come up with the notion, he would leave his subordinates to work out the details. In the case of the Kinetoscope, a young British employee, William Kennedy Laurie Dickson, was deputised to develop the technology.

The format of the 35mm perforated film used in the Kinetoscope remains the standard for professional filming today. The only difference was that instead of seeing the pictures on a screen, the public watched the films in a peep-show device.

The first ten production line models and films were ready by April 1894. A consortium led by Alfred Tate, Edison's former secretary, rented an empty shoe shop at 1155 Broadway in the then fashionable

Herald Square area. Ten Kinetoscopes were arranged in two rows of five, with brass rails for the spectators to lean against. The place was decorated with potted palms and a plaster bust of Edison, painted to simulate bronze.

The consortium engaged "an attractive young woman" to sell the 25-cent tickets which allowed each client to peer in turn into the five machines on one row: the running time of each film was less than 20 seconds. The opening was in fact planned for April 16, but on the afternoon of Saturday, April 14, Tate and his colleagues, putting the finishing touches to the place, noticed inquisitive crowds gathering outside.

They decided to open up there and then. "If we had wanted to close the place at six o'clock," Tate later recalled, "it would have been necessary to engage a squad of policemen. We got no dinner. At one o'clock in the morning I locked the door and we went to an all-night restaurant to regale ourselves on broiled lobsters."

The first film

repertory indicates that the exhibitors anticipated a mainly masculine audience for the Kinetoscope's voyeuristic pleasures. There were all-male genre scenes — a blacksmith's shop and a barber's — and films of vaudeville performers from Koster and Bial's music hall.

The star turn, however, was

Eugene Sandow, the world-famous German strongman, whose loincloth-clad or discreetly nude physique made a deep impression on the late Victorian woman. American society matrons paid up to \$300 for the privilege of feeling his muscles; and this forerunner of Schwarzenegger undoubtedly attracted a female clientele to the Kinetoscope.

Sex and violence were already basic attractions?

With such publicity, Kinetoscope parlours mushroomed across the United States. In Washington the advertisements read: "It is here! Edison's Kinetoscope! Marvelous! Realistic! The Most Wonderful Invention of This Century of Science."

London was to see its first films on October 17, 1894, in a Kinetoscope parlour at 70 Oxford Street. The building has gone but, with nice historical continuity, a video store now occupies the site.

DAVID ROBINSON

OPERA: A thrilling, but ultimately dispassionate *Peter Grimes* in Glasgow; a *Ballo* that refuses to lift off in London

Plenty of fire, but little real heat

The playing is perfect and the singers superlative, but Rodney Milnes is left strangely cold by Britten's epic

The first night of Scottish Opera's new production of *Peter Grimes* on Tuesday was a curious occasion. Musically it was one of the most thrilling performances imaginable, and Joachim Herz's production was full of provocative ideas — in the best sense — but in the final analysis it was oddly uninviting, and I cannot believe this is what Britten intended.

But first things first. Richard Armstrong's searingly theatrical conducting set the seal on an evening that confirmed *Grimes* as one of the unquestionably great operas, for its freshness of musical inspiration, sureness of technique and instinctive knowledge of what works in the theatre, qualities astonishing in a composer barely into his thirties at the time of the premiere in 1945.

Of course, in Glasgow's Theatre Royal Armstrong had the advantage of a theatre just the right size and with the right, bright acoustics: the balance perfectly controlled. The audience sat gripped throughout, with the moment of total, communally breathless silence before "Now the Great Bear" possibly the most theatrical effect of the whole evening.

The playing was superbly disciplined, the singing of the augmented chorus (trained by David Jones) impressively precise. Under Armstrong's musical directorship Scottish Opera is rapidly regaining a distinction that has occasionally faltered since the days of its founding fathers, Alexander Gibson and Peter Hemmings.

Armstrong had the advantage of some outstanding singers. Anthony Rolfe Johnson was singing *Grimes* for the first time on stage. The imminently honeyed quality of his tone and his matchless musicianship are well suited to much of the role: the long solo in the hut scene was so tenderly phrased that one

might almost have been listening to an opera by Bellini, and he sang the notoriously tricky "Great Bear" without turning a hair. Yet there is steel in his voice as well for the big moments, and he acted Herz's version of *Grimes* very affectingly.

Rita Cullis's Ellen Orford was in the same class: the burnished tone with which she attacked "Let her among you without fault" was as exciting as her insinuating soft singing of "Were we mistaken" at the turning point of the action. This highly accomplished, rashly undervalued soprano has done nothing better. Catherine Wyn-Rogers's Mrs Sedley was clearly projected, and there were two very strong nieces in Anne Dawson and Ann

It is always refreshing when an outsider casts a cool gaze on a masterpiece

Archibald. Neither Russell Smythe's surprisingly youthful Balstrode nor Richard Halton's Ned Keene were quite in focus, and the casting of a young, dapper baritone (Paul Napier-Burrows) as the bass Swallow did not altogether work. But such reservations may have as much to do with the production as with anything else.

It is always refreshing when an outsider casts a cool gaze on a national masterpiece, especially one that can fall victim to cosy parochialism or, recently, a lot of heavy breathing about child-abuse. Herz, one of the great wave of producers from what was then East Germany who did so much in Britain in the 1970s, would have none of that. His *Grimes* entered

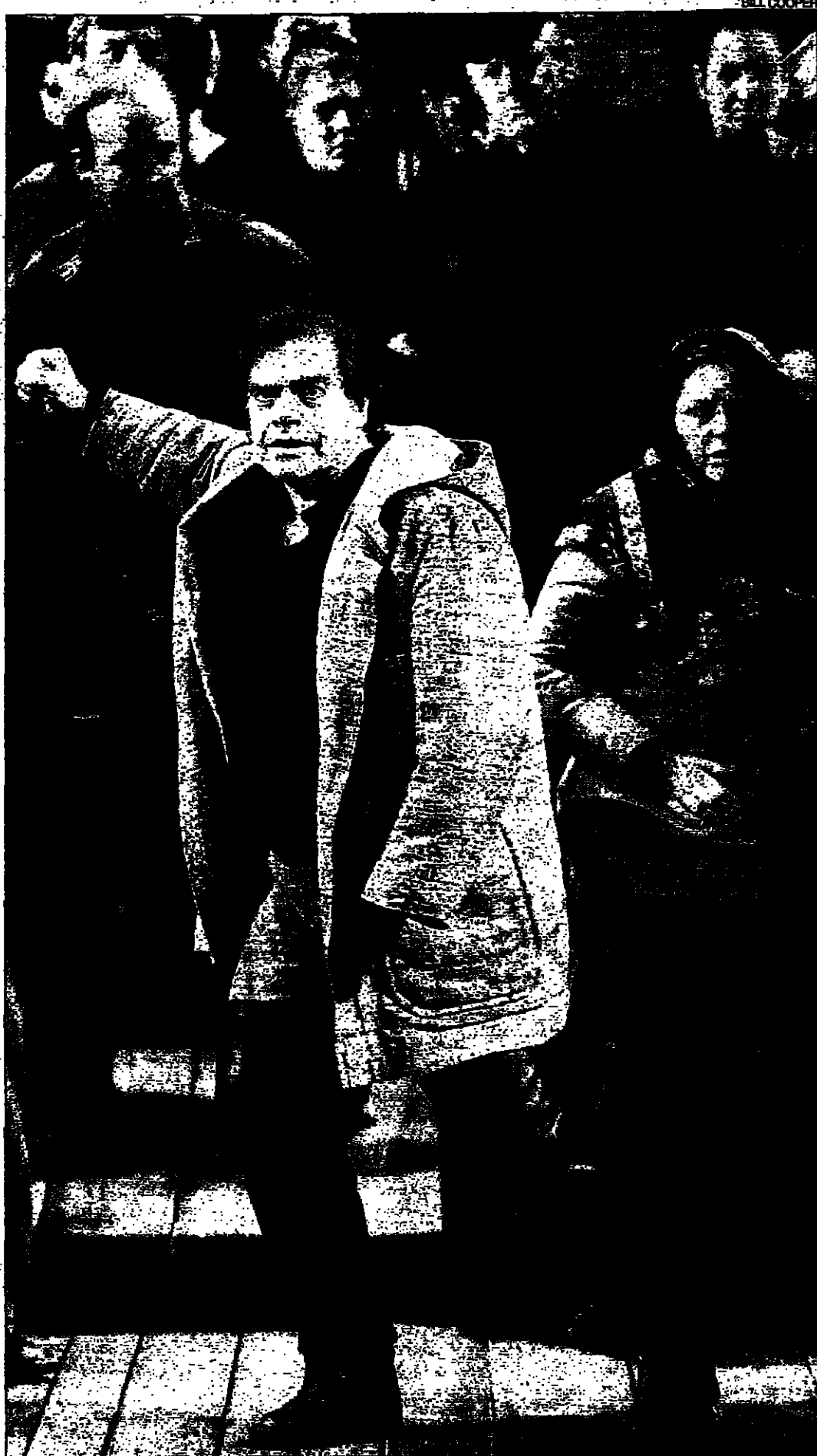
with a cheerful grin in the first act, and was understandably bemused by the general hostility. He had a perfectly normal, rather touching father-son relationship with the apprentice, who seemed genuinely fond of his employer: eager to learn, eager to work. The boy's death was an accident, no more.

Grimes is crime as a social drama, not a sexual one. But this puts Ellen in an unflattering light. When she enquires about the bruise, much to the boy's annoyance, *Grimes* playfully tweaks the child's cap and the child laughs. It really was "out of the hurry-burry".

"I don't like interferers," *Grimes* sings earlier. Ellen is the biggest interloper of them all, and her rejection of him on the finest of grounds is what drives the man, well, not mad in this production, just slightly unhinged. He simply does not understand when his "friend" Balstrode brutally orders him to kill himself.

Very interesting, but does it work? Up to a point. It might work better in a less detached, more overtly theatrical production. Reinhard Zimmermann's spacious set is brightly, analytically lit: there is little in the way of storm effects or seaside atmosphere. The pub scene is unauthentically *gemütlich* and there are moments of kitsch: Dr Crabbe taking notes at curtain-fall, and the pastel-pink female quartet pointing too directly to the *Rosamund* Trio.

Was this conscious irony, or suggesting a detectable strain of misogyny in the work? Either way, in by far his best work here Herz certainly makes you think afresh about the piece.



Anthony Rolfe Johnson, making his stage debut in the role, is a deeply impressive Peter Grimes

Ball with no bounce

Un ballo in maschera
Covent Garden

THE Royal Opera's revival of *Ballo* remains earthbound. A change of tenor, baritone and even conductor for this month's final performances has worked no wonders. Despite the modest efforts of director Patrick Young the principals pass through Otto Schenk's production like so many strangers in the night.

The most cheering element is the sign of a return to vocal health by Francisco Araiza, singing his first Riccardo. The Mexican tenor sounded out of sorts during his earlier London appearances this year — as the Duke in Covent Garden's *Rigoletto* and Rodolfo in the Barbican *Bohème* — possibly as a result of taking on too many heavy roles. Riccardo suits him much better, especially Act I.

The old sheen, which made him such a graceful Mozart tenor, was back in the barcarole, flipped out with all the insouciance that is part of Riccardo's make-up. There was spirit too in the conspicuous exchanges with the fortune-teller, Ulrica (Jane Henschel in commanding form). But alongside came moments of carelessness: Riccardo should not begin writing out a commission for the sailor, Christian, before Ulrica has peered into her crystal ball and forecast elevation from the ranks.

Verdi's great Act II love duet went less well. Araiza was being careful not to ask too much of himself and Nina Rautio's Amelia was surprisingly stodgy. Maria Guleghina would have been a more interesting choice for the part.

But Rautio could justly claim too many changes of husband during this *Ballo*. Giorgio Zancanaro cancelled again and was replaced by Wolfgang Brendel, a notable Wagnerian baritone but not a natural Verdi. He gave a blustery, not very sympathetic Renato and confined his acting to knocking the stage furniture about after catching Amelia cheating.

The conductor, Martin André, had a difficult house debut. Araiza in particular had his own ideas about some of Verdi's note values. André's own tempi were often unnecessarily slow, especially in the last act, repressing even the Oscar of the normally vivacious Judith Howarth. No need to be as glum as the remnants of the staging.

JOHN HIGGINS

POP ON FRIDAY IN THE TIMES

Nick Cave, the godfather of goth, may look more like a werewolf the older he gets. But, as his ninth album shows, he still makes influential music. David Sinclair writes in his review of the week's biggest releases

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CONCERTS: Brendel's fame overshadows his genius; plus modern American composers — and Britten's children

Too big for his Beethoven

Alfred Brendel
Festival Hall

ALFRED Brendel is half-way through his cycle of the complete piano sonatas of Beethoven and, at this point of taking stock, some few things have to be said. Every seat is sold, support is loyal and total, the applause is loud and long; but this audience is hearing increasingly more of Brendel than of Beethoven, and seems to be scarcely aware of it.

Elements which once made Brendel's playing sharply characterised and distinctive are now becoming heavy fingerprints that threaten to mask the face of Beethoven himself. What is more, the prints are dangerously close to becoming fossilised. As character edges perilously close to caricature, an interpretative impasse seems to have been reached, and the way forward is unclear.

Anyone who respects Brendel's artistry will recognise its elements: a long and clear-sighted grasp of structure; a fascinated articulation of every voice that contributes to it; robust rhythmic control; an impish, sometimes ironic humour. At the moment, the

structural sense is becoming almost obsessive, so that the desire to demarcate and reach the significant musical goal creates a near-maniac momentum that rides — at best mechanically, at worst roughshod — over much of the detail on the way. This was felt particularly acutely in the outer movements of the "Pathétique". Brendel's fingers, meanwhile, are blindly obedient to his brain. Ideas counterpoint from hand to hand. Accompanying figuration and answering phrases all chatter out through grunted teeth, with scarcely a pause for breath or, more important, for any sense of surprise or wonder. The Op 22 B flat sonata lived on adrenaline; the melody of the slow movement's airily within the Op 81a "Lobewohl" sonata was pushed out forcefully, as if the melodic line were recalcitrant and needed to be taught a thing or two.

THE auspiciously named Britten Sinfonia is rapidly establishing itself as a major force not only in East Anglia, where it has its roots, but in the musical life of the nation generally. Although only just entering its second year, the orchestra already has an impressive-looking diary of engagements. Aldeburgh features prominently in it, and the moving spirit of Benjamin Britten hovers over the enterprise, not least in the strong commitment to the involvement of young people in music making.

The Sinfonia's Queen Elizabeth Hall debut on Monday night was a commendably devised programme (of perhaps over-generous measure) that capitalised on one of the ensemble's chief strengths: the solo abilities of its players.

For Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante in B flat, the orchestra's talented leader, Pauline Lowbury, was joined by Nicholas Daniel, one of the finest young oboists in the country, Julie Andrews (bassoon) and Caroline Dearnley (cello) for an exquisitely crafted performance. Not only was each of the soloists eloquent in his or her own right, but the dovetailing of their contri-

Fine voice of youth

Britten Sinfonia/Cleobury
QEH

Contributions showed a keenness of musicianship and a communal empathy that a seasoned string quartet might have envied.

If Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* and Britten's *Nocturne* (with tenor soloist John Mark Ainsley acutely sensitive as always to both text and musical line) were ideal showcases for the Sinfonia's soft-grained, subtly nuanced string sound (the ratio of women to men is two to one incidentally), there was no lack of sparkle or rhythmic edge when required. This was more than evident in Copland's *Music for the Theater*, with its extrovert,



Alfred Brendel shows the form that brought him fame

There are still, of course, things to enjoy. The clarity of articulation in the little chamber-musical Op 14 No 1 sonata, and the Haydn-esque mercurial wit of the Op 14 No 2, revealed vintage Brendel. But this is a backward glance. There is something increasingly driven, even irascible about Brendel's Beethoven: this does not feel

like a journey into deepening wisdom for either him or his audience. "Feelings", Brendel once wrote, "must remain the alpha and omega of the musician." That was nearly 20 years ago. Now the brain and the fingers are beginning to show their tyranny, and their deadly power is great.

HILARY FINCH

jazzy episodes, given a heavy swing by conductor Nicholas Cleobury, the orchestra's artistic director.

Kinesis and stasis are starkly juxtaposed in the Copland, to exhilarating effect, whereas in the previous item, Philip Cashian's *Four Harps and Silver Voices*, they were skilfully integrated in a series of finely graded climaxes and dissolutions. A major climax occurs surprisingly early — as suggested by the Blake poem which gave the piece its name — but the tranquillity of the aftermath is echoed in a static central section featuring two muted trumpets and in the final coda with its evocatively celestial bowed percussion timbres.

Cashian's piece acted as a point of departure for young Essex musicians participating in an educational project with members of the orchestra over the previous week. Supported by Eastern Arts, the Sinfonia takes its community responsibilities seriously. This is undoubtedly an orchestra of which we are going to hear a lot more.

BARRY MILLINGTON

New World news

THE Kronos Quartet certainly cannot be criticised for a lack of breadth. In this concert, part of the Motorola Festival of American Music, they gave five pieces by five living compatriot composers. All were first British performances, all were quite different in style, and most deserved the airing. One work outstayed its welcome: Ken Benshoof's *Transient Greens and Greys* is a meandering, sub-Delian piece of nonsense, about which no more.

Steven Mackay, whose quartet opened the evening called his work *On All Fours*. It was inspired, he says, by "creatures of great intelligence, wit, soul and loyalty", who engage in intelligent, non-verbal communication. For Mackay's purposes these include dogs and dolphins and, touchingly, Mackay's own father after a stroke. The piece sold itself convincingly with its resourceful colouring, direct manner, textural transparency and potent integrity.

Next came Ben Johnston's *Rough Quartet*. *Amadeus* was composed in 1973. This set of variations, in which the tune is subjected to steadily increasing rhythmic and pitch complexities, evokes nothing so much as the sound of a

Jacobean viol consort, a fantasia rich in textural variety. The Kronos gave a splendid reading, hitting even vibrato-less notes dead centre; a special mention to the cellist Joan Jeanrenaud for her impeccable harmonic harmonics.

After the interval Lee Hyla's *Howl* attempted to do approximately the same for Allen Ginsburg's epic litany. Hearing Ginsburg's spellbinding delivery was in itself a thrilling experience. Indeed his recorded voice so dominated that it was sometimes hard to know precisely where Hyla's intuitive-sounding music stood in relation to it. Was it illustration, or atmosphere, or merely serviceable accompaniment? Perhaps all three.

The remaining piece, Michael Daugherty's entertaining *Elvis Everywhere*, used electronically manipulated recordings of three contrasting Presley impersonators together with a tape part to create a witty collage in which the quartet's role seemed to be largely one of impersonating the impersonators. If the technical side of the piece was sophisticated, the music was slight. No matter, for the King was among us.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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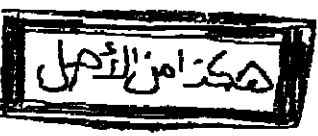
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David Ekserdjian celebrates a rediscovery of two artistic genres that have been ignored for too long

In praise of poor relations

One of the grimmest consequences of the rise of art history as a scholarly discipline has been that postgraduates embark on doctoral research on more and more obscure figures. The point was long ago reached when no artist was too bad to be safe from the microscopic if uncritical scrutiny. Of course minnows were always studied *en passant*, and rightly so, but they now take centre stage, and there is a tacit assumption that the big names have been done to death. In all but a handful of cases, nothing could be further from the truth.

Sadly, there has been no corresponding broadening of horizons when it comes to those genres traditionally dismissed as minor, where there remains so much to be discussed, not least concerning major artists. Both these books are the products of a fair measure of crusading zeal, which is hardly surprising given the foolishness that lies behind their respective subjects' general neglect. Prints suffer because people assume they are almost invariably reproductions of works in other media, because they are multiples rather than one-offs, and — I suspect — because the majority of them are monochrome.

In the case of medals, the principal stumbling block is their small scale. In addition to the material difficulties, there are intellectual ones in both domains, but perhaps especially in connection with prints, where the technical demands of study — states, impressions, and the like — have tended to frighten off generalists, who have been content to leave the field to the print specialists.

David Landau and Peter Parshall are print specialists par excellence, but it is their breadth that makes *The Renaissance Print 1470-1550* such a tour de force. They are extremely interested in how prints were made, and their book contains fascinating disquisitions on papers, inks, copper plates, and presses, as well as intricately argued considerations of the differences between etchings, engravings, and drypoints, but all of this close analysis serves a larger purpose. They have set out to write

THE RENAISSANCE
PRINT, 1470-1550

By David Landau
and Peter W. Parshall
Yale University Press, £45

THE CURRENCY
OF FAME

Portrait Medals of the
Renaissance

Edited by Stephen K. Scher
Thames & Hudson, £65

a history of the renaissance print, in which it is not isolated from the history of art more generally, nor indeed from the historical period under consideration.

The result is a book that often reads like a detective story, and never more so than in the reconstruction of all manner of sharp practice going on in Raphael's

effort. In any event, it is hard to resist authors who can come up with a sentence like this: "On the overall scale of human ingenuity, the invention of printmaking should rank somewhere below the discovery of how to make a soufflé." I can hardly wait to read their history of the soufflé.

The medal is almost equally ignored by sculpture experts, while sculpture itself comes a poor third behind painting and drawing in the art historical hierarchy. As also with prints, a great deal of aesthetic damage has been caused by the fact that common or garden museum displays are bound to contain models of very uneven quality, many of them wrong from the start and others worn down by the handling of centuries.

The Currency of Fame seeks to remedy this situation, by assembling an array of the very best from all over the world. It is one of those dual purpose productions, designed to accompany an exhibition, but also to live on as a standard reference work. The introduction by Steven K. Scher is faintly comic in its insouciance, with tremendous denunciations of all sorts of artists who had the temerity to try to produce medals, but the entries — by a team of scholars — are in the main well done, and a number contain important new material.

One medal is even attributed to the great Bramante, and would thus become a self-portrait, although I remain baffled by its appearance in the 15th-century section. In view of the fact that it is datable to 1505, the texts are well worth reading, but if general readers spend more time looking at the excellent illustrations and studying the iconographically fascinating backs as well as the portrait fronts, it will be no bad thing.

They will discover that just as Mantegna and Dürer were not the only great printmakers of the Renaissance, so likewise Pisanello and Cellini (one of Scher's particular *bêtes noires*) were not alone. In fact the Germans were among the best of the bunch, and if artists such as Christoph Weiditz and Matthias Gebel are hardly household names, it has nothing to do with quality.



Self-portrait now attributed to Bramante (1505)

circle in Rome. Above all, though, it is triumphantly aware of the fact that prints allowed for all sorts of undreamed-of innovations and experiments, conceivably even more than drawings did. In consequence, the sections on maps, botanical illustrations, erotica, and genre prove particularly absorbing. Another loose category that might have been worth a mention is curiosities or wonders of nature, such as the deformed hog with legs coming out of its back of which Dürer made a print.

Because this is an extremely important book, it is not always an easy read, but it is well worth the

effort. In any event, it is hard to resist authors who can come up with a sentence like this: "On the overall scale of human ingenuity, the invention of printmaking should rank somewhere below the discovery of how to make a soufflé." I can hardly wait to read their history of the soufflé.



St George and the Dragon by Cranach the Elder (1507): colour newsprint arrived 480 years later

Never mind the quality: feel the price

Harriet Paterson

PATRONAGE IN RENAISSANCE ITALY
From 1400 to the early seventeenth century

By Mary Hollingsworth
John Murray, £25

image, and on the frescos in Santa Maria Novella, which are lively, rich scenes filled with detail. Tellingly, the first was commissioned by a leading supporter of the

puritain friar Savonarola, the second by the wealthy Strozzi family, with their love of luxury and display.

The author is used to ambitious

subjects, having previously written *A History of World Art*, and the 18-page bibliography testifies to impressive research, but the result can be a concatenation of events which reads like a Medici shopping list. With patrons taking precedence, seminal works of art are rattled off without a backwards glance in a way that can hinder reference: Donatello's astounding bronze pulpit in San Lorenzo, for example, are passed over without even mentioning the artist.

Nevertheless, the book is valuable as an overview...with a useful round-up of patronage in the more neglected courts of Ferrara, Mantua and Urbino, often overshadowed by the richer Renaissance capitals. This style however, is dry and needs more of the rare human touches which spark the account into life, such as the story of the herald who suggested to a committee of the Palazzo della Signoria that Donatello's *David* should be moved out of the main courtyard because it was "not very good".

Harriet Paterson is a writer on Italian culture and politics.

HERE is a book about Renaissance art and architecture which has no truck with artistic sensibility. Cast aside any feelings you may have about the inestimable expressiveness of a Fra Angelico Annunciation: in the quattrocento such images were "strictly functional", measured purely in terms of cost of materials and labour.

Viewed through this prosaic prism, Michelangelo's *Pietà* in St Peter's or Botticelli's *Venus* were no more than art as personal propaganda, commissioned by wealthy bankers, merchants or cardinals to bolster their own prestige. Kudos depended strictly on cost: the

Santissima Annunziata tabernacle in Florence actually announces its price on its inscription, and Cosimo de' Medici is said to have complained that his builders weren't spending enough.

The idea that the patron, not the artist, was seen as the creator of a project is used to explain dramatic stylistic differences in contemporary work by an artist. Filippo Lippi, for example, worked simultaneously on the San Procolo *Crucifixion*, a simple, devotional

Sweet bells jangled

JAMIE James is an American polymath who has a bee in his bonnet about the historical overlap between music and science. The thesis of *The Music of the Spheres* (Little, Brown, £18.99) is that, from being inextricably bound together at the dawn of civilisation, the two became separated after the Renaissance, culminating in the materialism of the Industrial Revolution and the sensuality of the Romantic movement — and that it's been downhill all the way since then.

Although Boethius's early 6th century *Principles of Music* was still a standard text for Oxford students in 1856, the subject is absurdly relegated to the second division of education today. But few have ever denied the healing power of music, first vaunted by the Ancient Greeks, even without today's quasi-sciences of music therapy. What James doesn't seem to want to notice is that we are now the privileged audience of a vast variety of music than ever, not just the enormous inheritance of Western European civilisation.

This baffling book takes us from Pythagoras to Newton via the Guidonian hand (the five lines of the staff) and the birth of opera, but there is little connection to practicality. It all reads like terribly clever stuff, but I did feel my eyes glazing over several times as the musical *apertures* became progressively more subjective and arrogant. This mere practical musician thought it had a whiff of red herring about it. Maybe it is a book strictly for intellectuals.

AMANDA HOLDEN

Diviner of our destiny

Max Beloff

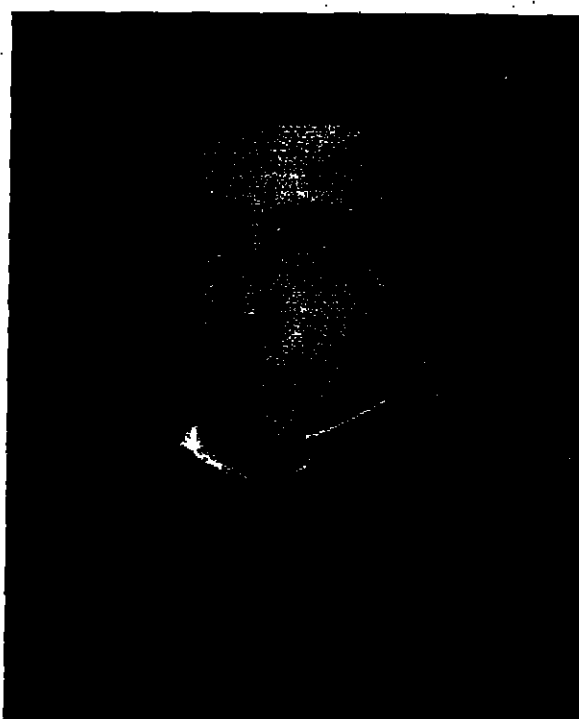
TOCQUEVILLE
By Larry Siedentop
OUP, £5.99 pbk original

The reputation of Alexis de Tocqueville as an interpreter of the French Revolution and the world that it gave rise to, and as a prophet of future developments, has been enhanced in recent years with the publication for the first time of many of his papers, and above all of his private correspondence.

No political thinker of the 19th century touches so closely on our own preoccupations — how to limit the actions of the state without preventing it from exercising its proper functions, how to create among all the people that willingness to exercise an active citizenship which in earlier ages was left to the aristocratic classes.

Given the limitations of space imposed by the *Past Masters* series in which his book figures, Larry Siedentop has understandably decided that what is most required is an introduction to the two great works — *De la Démocratie en Amérique* (1835) and *L'Ancien Régime et la Révolution* (1856). He not only gives the necessary biographical material to show how the books came about — Tocqueville was always for preference a man of action — but also examines with a sure hand their content and style. The student's path will be much eased.

Particularly valuable and original is Siedentop's exploration of the way in which Tocqueville's thought grew out of what he calls the



Tocqueville by Chassériau: prophet of democracy

"Great Debate" in Restoration France. The "ultras" could not succeed in their effort to restore the past of inequality and privilege but if equality led to the "atomisation" of society, with individuals solely concerned with their own material pursuits, how could a recurrence of tyranny be prevented?

Siedentop is more inclined than some previous commentators to insist on the religious aspect of Tocqueville's thinking, which separated him from the secularism of the Enlightenment. Politics and morals could not be separated from each other — as true of Tocqueville, the liberal Catholic, as of the Protestants, Benjamin Con-

stant and François Guizot. Siedentop, a philosopher rather than a historian, is not perhaps as interested in the latter work; but he makes it clear how closely related were the clues that Tocqueville was following through French history in trying to explain the Second Empire to his earlier preoccupations that led to the *Démocratie*.

From both books the economic dimension is largely absent as the source of social change. Opinion is what counts — how in a democracy, with its pressures for conformity, can the aristocratic virtue of independent thought be maintained? It is this kind of question which makes the *Démocratie* the

best introduction there is to the United States of our own day. The country is different — the problems remain. In understandably restricting himself in this way, Siedentop has left two important aspects of his subject unexplored. While he shows the personal reasons which led Tocqueville to undertake his American journey, he does not point out the extent to which French opinion in the period was already deeply interested in the United States so that the effect of Tocqueville's contribution cannot be assessed without taking this into account. Missing from the bibliography is René Rémond's celebrated work, *Les États Unis devant l'Opinion française, 1815-1852*.

An even more important gap is the failure to explore the effect of Tocqueville's long-standing and constant contacts with the United Kingdom which played an important part in shaping his views: his relations with English men of letters were much closer than those with other Americans. As I pointed out over 30 years ago in my contribution to *Alexis de Tocqueville: Le Livre du Centenaire*, he had enough material for a book on this country, and more relevant correspondence has been published since then.

Lord Beloff's most recent book, *An Historian in the Twentieth Century*, was reviewed in *The Times* by Norman Stone on October 3 1992. Tocqueville's *Démocratie* in America has just been republished in Henry Reeve's translation with an introduction by Alan Ryan (Everyman's Library, £11.99).

THE TIMES INVITES READERS TO A PRIVATE VIEW AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

TRUTH AND FANTASY

Goya

THE SMALL PAINTINGS

The first major exhibition to be held in London for nearly 30 years of the work of Francisco Goya (1746-1828) opened on March 17 at the Royal Academy of Arts in London's Piccadilly. "Goya: Truth and Fantasy", consists of about 100 small-scale paintings, drawn from private collections, museums and galleries.

The exhibition includes sketches for Goya's major altarpieces, dating from the 1770s to 1820, and many of Goya's portraits, including the celebrated self-portrait of the artist working in the studio.

The exhibition, which runs until June 12 is mounted in association with *The Times* and Classic FM with support from Iberia Airlines.

To enable readers of *The Times* to enjoy the exhibition at leisure, we have arranged two private view evenings, on Tuesday, April 19, and Thursday, April 28, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, during which wines and canapés will be served. On arrival each guest will be directed to the Sackler Galleries and given a free gallery guide, worth £1.60. During the evening Mounon Cadet wines, red and white, by Baron Philippe de Rothschild, will be served with canapés in the Private Rooms.

At 7pm a short introductory talk will be given by a guest lecturer and the Royal Academy shop will be open to readers who will be entitled to a 10 per cent discount on Goya merchandise (excluding books).

On leaving the exhibition, each guest will receive a copy of the poster for the exhibition, worth £4.95, and the gift of four exhibition postcards.

worth £1.20. Tickets for the private view evenings are available at the cost of £10 each.

If you would like to join us on one of the private view evenings, please complete the coupon below and send it with your remittance to: *The Times* Goya offers, PO Box 11, Tadcaster, North Yorks, LS24 9XA. Alternatively you can order tickets by telephone (0937 541149). Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

THE TIMES

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How the British expect the Sovereign to do their duty

J. Enoch Powell considers a respectful life of Queen Elizabeth II and reflects on why the British monarchy cannot be exempt from the effects of revolutionary social and political change

THE QUEEN
By Kenneth Harris
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

I have a recollection. It is 1919. I am with my mother and father in the front seats of the otherwise empty top deck of a Birmingham tramcar. I start up singing my favourite (was it my only?) song, "God Save the King". "Don't sing that here," scolds my mother. "Oh, let the boy sing it," says my father. "He may not be able to much longer."

No use trying to tell me that "not since 1820 has there been so much speculation about whether or not the British monarchy has a future". That sentence is from the prologue to a painstaking and respectful chronicle, from Edward VII to Prince Charles, of the British monarchy, viewed, as far as it possibly can be viewed, from inside. And there the biographer's problem — Kenneth Harris abjures the word biography — begins and ends. Does the monarch have an "inside", is it not all "outside"?

We are born under a government — or we were, before the European Communities Act 1972 and the Maastricht Treaty — of which the constitutional driving force proceeds from the person of a monarch; and when we say or think that we were born a free people, we mean that we are

governed ultimately in accordance with advice tendered to that monarch on behalf of the majority in an elected parliament. The person, however, who acts on that advice, which is what distinguishes monarchy from every other form of government, is also an individual human being, moving, like "the poorest he that is in England", through the same dimensions of human life as ourselves.

Hence the enduring fascination of observing the monarch and the monarch's family as a subject of biography, and of verbal and visual media coverage. We telescope together the constitutional monarch and the human individual; and try as we may, we cannot avoid one popping out of focus with the other.

Of the young Princess Elizabeth Harris writes perceptively that "she had a precocious sense of being royal, and that being royal was different from being any other kind of human being. She was highly aware that the masses of the people outside the Palace were interested in her, and that she must behave towards them in front of them in a special kind of way, and that it was her duty to do so." Those last words say it all — or nearly all.

The biography falls sharply into two halves — before accession and after accession — which turn out very differently. The earlier is a historical and revealing description of the influences inherited from previous sovereigns, from Edward VII to George VI. The second half, dependent on own sources and on direct observation, turns out to be critical

and acidulated, describing the successive events which have brought monarchy under question during Elizabeth II's reign.

Those events may be classified as moral and constitutional. "When George V was entered at St John's College, Cambridge, his tutorial instruction consisted almost entirely of the study of Walter Bagehot's classic, *The English Constitution*." George VI followed suit by "learning from Dacey's solid and uncompromising *Law of the Constitution*, relieved by the brilliant and scintillating pages of Walter Bagehot". It was Bagehot who wrote that "we have come to regard the Crown as the head of our morality".

By a strange paradox a permissive and increasingly unmoral generation has persisted in endowing with moral expectations the Sovereign and the Sovereign's

family. Harris describes remorselessly the succession of encounters with marital infidelity and with divorce, from Princess Margaret and Group Captain Townsend to Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Are they in some way inconsistent with what is expected of monarchy?

To talk, as Harris does, of the Queen "bypassing her responsibilities as Head of the Church of England" — he really means "on earth supreme governor" — is of course nonsense: the supreme governorship, vested in the Crown of England in lieu of the papacy, implies no moral or other personal obligation on the part of the Sovereign apart from continuing Protestantism. What has happened in practice, however, is that the public has persisted in endowing the monarchy with the duty, which it has itself disclaimed, of upholding marital morality. Hence the negative repercussions of royal marital misadventures

upon the person of the Sovereign.

The second, and constitutional, source of embarrassment has been the Headship of the Commonwealth. Her Majesty having "come to believe that the preservation and nourishing of the Commonwealth must be her first duty". The "Headship" of a collection of nations all around the world, including republics, is difficult to combine with sovereignty exercised over one country, namely, the United Kingdom, exclusively, on the advice of United Kingdom ministers. Harris is not mistaken in placing Commonwealth events, those in Canada and Australia not excepted, amongst his exhibits, and not forgetting that cloud on the horizon represented by the European Union, with its absorption of British national sovereignty into a different structure altogether.

The excellent epilogue does not suffice to efface an impression which the book as a whole leaves behind, that the British monarchy is not exempt from the effect of revolutionary changes in the society and the government of the Queen's realm. It would, upon reflection, have been strange if that had not been so.

Looking back at convoys in anger

As John Slader points out, there was no phoney war at sea: the liner *Athenia* was sunk within nine hours of war breaking out. By the time the phoney war came to an end on land in May 1940 another 162 British ships had joined the *Athenia* on the ocean floor. At intervals throughout the war Churchill made stirring speeches about the merchant navy, about how the only battle he'd ever been really frightened about was the Battle of the Atlantic. Yet it is difficult to believe that he, or anyone, ever feared anything like enough. Slader, who is cheered in a schoolboyish way by Churchillian rhetoric, records unreflectingly that convoy HX-133, which sank two U-boats, "became notable in Admiralty circles for being one of the few convoys drawn to the attention of Winston Churchill".

The Battle of Britain, which lasted 16 weeks, cost us the lives of several hundred fighter pilots. Quite rightly their praises are still sung. But in June 1940 the *Lancasteria* was sunk off Saint-Nazaire with the loss of over 3,000 men (we don't even know the exact

R.W. Johnson

THE ARCTIC CONVOYS
1941-1945

By Richard Woodman
John Murray, £25

THE FOURTH SERVICE
Merchantmen at War
1939-1945

By John Slader
Robert Hale, £27.99

total), and yet who has ever heard of the *Lancasteria*? We all know about the heroes of Alamein, but who mourns for the 273 British and Allied merchant ships lost in March 1942 alone? Men drowning, men on fire with blazing oil, men freezing like boards in the Arctic wind, men dying at the rate of nine ships a day, losses so bad the BBC wasn't allowed to announce them. My father was one of those men — he was twice torpedoed but survived — and his stories of those days chill me still.

It is, in fact difficult to read either of these books without a terrible sense of anger. The merchant navy played the



An Arctic convoy endures four days of attack by U-boats and aircraft in October 1942. In the worst disaster, convoy PQ-17 and its escorts scattered; 24 merchant ships were lost

war's most crucial role, and one cannot but feel that it was treated shabbily. If tanker mates and engineers had gone to the same schools as fighter pilots, one cannot believe their slaughter would have so easily been tolerated. In June 1940, the Channel convoys were so badly savaged by the Germans that Churchill ordered a mandatory air escort. The order was cavalierly ignored without Churchill apparently noticing for, as Slader puts it, "rarely was such a luxury available". Yet Britain had

almost lost the First World War because of the U-boat menace. There was no excuse for the lack of preparation — and Britain then accounted for 27 per cent of the world's merchant fleet.

Once war began it was immediately clear that only increased escorts and air-cover would work against U-boats — and yet these resources were not made fully available for almost four years. Meanwhile enormous resources were devoted to a strategic bombing campaign

which could never possibly have played so decisive a role.

Of these books Richard Woodman's original study is by far the better written and researched. Slader plods through an account of just about every ship sunk in every convoy, oscillating between a wooden style and Boy's Own heroics. For all that, it is a useful overall survey which commands respect. Often one feels he is restrained, as when he records without comment that as late as August 1942 Coastal Command was allo-

cated just five Liberator aircraft to protect the convoys — and yet we were then still losing the battle. As we entered 1942 we were sinking just two U-boats for every 20 that came into service each month. By November 1942 the Germans had 200 U-boats on patrol with another 170 in training and Dönitz was at last in sight of his target of 300 U-boats in the Atlantic. Luckily, the tide turned, before that target was reached: once airborne radar made it impossible for U-boats to surface in

safety, the game was up. The U-boat war, the hardest and bitterest of struggles was ill-suited to Churchillian heroics. After the PQ-17 convoy disaster, when the Admiralty ordered all escorting warships to scatter, leaving the wolf packs to sink 24 of the convoy's 35 merchant ships in the freezing Arctic waters, Royal Navy men actually refused to go ashore where they might meet the surviving seamen, so great was their shame. And down with the ships went 297 aircraft, 594

tanks and 4,246 lorries and gun carriers. To lose such material on land would have been regarded as a major military disaster but, being only a convoy, one could attempt to bombast one's way through. The junior minister, Philip Noel-Baker, told the assembled survivors in Glasgow: "We know what the convoy cost us but I want to tell you whatever the cost, it was well worth it." The final provocation was probably that "us". The survivors, quite rightly, howled him down.

A little place in the country

J.W.M. Thompson

CHILDERLEY
Nature and Morality in a Country Village

By Michael Mayerfeld Bell
University of Chicago Press, £29.95

THE NAME "Childerley" has been coined by Michael Bell to conceal the identity of the real Hampshire village of which this book forms a portrait. Its inhabitants will probably be grateful to him for this, as they may not be too keen on every aspect of his account of them and their ways. But they will certainly be interested in the findings of this American sociologist, who went to live among them for several months and subjected them to a close ethnographic scrutiny.

It is a fairly typical modern village, an "exurb" in American parlance, some two hours from London. It has a 12th-century church set in rolling farmland. The villagers range from commuting stockbrokers to country labourers; their scattered dwellings include council houses and thatched cottages, as well as much grander places. What they have in common is their (very English) preference for living in the country rather than in a city. This was one of the matters which Bell explored as he got to know them, interviewing them with ever-ready tape-recorder, patiently studying their customs, their ideas about themselves and each other, and their beliefs.

The result is a tremendously painstaking book, but it has to be said that as a picture of village life *Childerley* is some way from Mrs Gaskell's *Cranford* or even Ronald Blythe's *Akenfield*. Not for Bell the gentle wit of the former or the self-effacing observation of the latter. He goes doggedly for the long haul, acquiring 91 hours of

taped material plus an unspecified quantity of field notes (which presumably record the woman who told him stories about her cat for over an hour). Large slabs are reproduced in the book. The author's endurance is impressive. Such a massive flow of village chatter must often have sunk to the droning tedium of the pub politician, but he never appears to flag.

THE CHIEF impression from all this is that everyone in *Childerley* is preoccupied with questions of social class. This is true of the local baronet, of those categorised as "moneyed villagers", and indeed of all the rest. Everyone seems eager to discuss village class distinctions and evidently Bell shares their interest. (His own rating, he tells us, is "upper-middle-class".) One might have expected an American sociologist doing fieldwork in England to put class high on his agenda, but Bell claims to have been surprised to find that *Childerley* put it there; and he conscientiously notes that the "social drag" of class origin is no less in America.

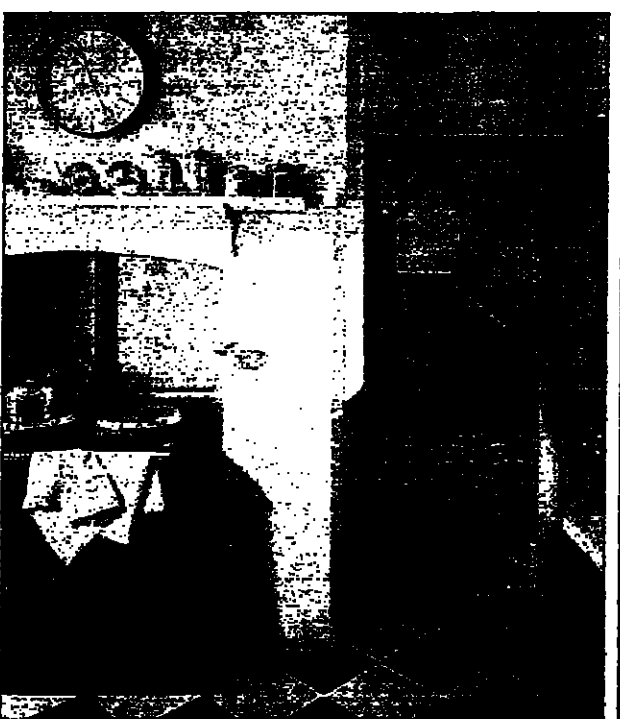
But the subject of class fascinates him as much as it does his friends in the village and he is a shrewd observer of its manifestations. He is very good on "front door" and

"back door" lifestyles (a neat differentiation), on the different manners prevailing in the village's two pubs (one being more upmarket than the other), on contrasting attitudes to hunting, and so forth. Class, he thinks, provides the key to the village and its people. Some villagers I know would say that there is more to it.

At the same time Bell is aware that the old class system is crumbling or has crumbled, so that although his subjects talk about it at length it no longer provides them with the "moral authority" of former days. This leads him to his major sociological theme,

which occupies a large part of the book. To compensate for their moral ambivalence about class distinctions the people of *Childerley*, he holds, have cultivated a different identity, that of "country people" living "close to nature". They look with disdain or disgust upon life in the great cities and seek a superior identity from their own nearness to nature and the countryside. As the rules of class fade, the "natural conscience" takes over. Bell develops this interesting speculation at length. It is perhaps unfair to suggest that another student of village life, Jane Austen, might have made the point in a few lines. Bell's achievement, and his perceptiveness, are impressive for all that.

J.W.M. Thompson wrote the *Country Life* column in *The Spectator* under the pseudonym Peter Quince.



The Aga, status symbol of modern village life. From Terence Conran's *Kitchen Book* (Conran Octopus, £25)

Street of shame

Alexandra Frean

SHOPPING FOR WOMEN

By Philip Oakes
André Deutsch, £14.99

Those who believe that journalism ranks far below badger-gassing and debt-collecting in the great unwritten league table of unspeakable occupations will find ample sustenance in *Shopping for Women*. Billed as "a requiem for Fleet Street", its characters include a despot and craven press baron, a cowardly middle-aged journalist, a principled novelist and a fiercely ambitious hack who is prepared to do just about everything to be "big on TV". All co-exist in the satirical world of dishonesty, mutual loathing and self-deception.

The novel tells the story of Patrick Lamb, a 43-year-old newspaper columnist, who, as one of the most senior and expendable members on the staff of a fictional daily, *The Arbitrator*, is sent to North Korea to bring back a giant panda, for the greater glory of Britain in general and of his media tycoon boss in particular. It tracks Lamb's farcical attempts to cut a swathe through North Korean red tape; his pathetic efforts to capture a wild panda without putting his back out; and Lamb's personal odyssey from disillusionment to fulfilment, following the break-up of his marriage to a young, beautiful and careerist agony aunt, who goes by the name of Cassandra.

Written by a journalist, the novel is steeped in newspaper folklore. All the usual self-referential material is there, not forgetting the futile lunches during which reporters from rival papers betray their own editors.

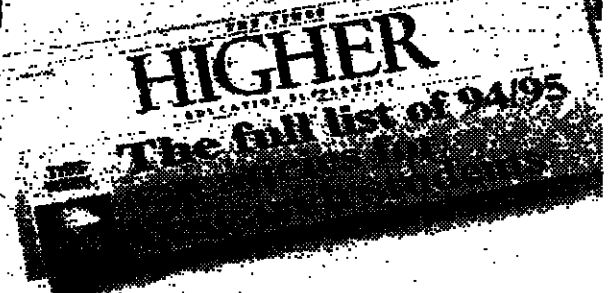
Few people who have opened a paper in the past few years will have any difficulty recognising a number of real life media figures from Oakes's finely drawn composite caricatures. Combining the worst traits of some of Fleet

Street's most notorious living and recently departed monsters, he has created a cast of larger-than-life villains, with a few likeable anti-heroes added for good measure. Lamb's boss, who comes little about journalism but has a great knack for acquiring newsprint from developing countries at knockdown prices, is nicknamed the Admiral and constantly boasts about his past as a prize-winning boxer. His novelist neighbour, Amos Bennett, delights in his reputation as a male chauvinist and agrees to pose nude for a magazine aimed at the older reader called *The Foe*.

As a satire on the world of national newspapers, *Shopping for Women* focuses on the worst aspects of an era of journalism now partly superseded by a bright new generation of professional reporters, too busy or too scared to indulge in the kind of excesses practised by Lamb and his cronies.

In spite of its title and its consciously non-politically correct tone, this is not a misogynistic tract. The only characters who demonstrate any consistency and who get what they want are the three women in Lamb's life. And despite her childish nursery rhyme name and plump girly features, Lottie Moffat, Lamb's blonde, 22-year-old photographer, turns out to be the real heroine. She beats the men at their own game and demonstrates that there are still some principled journalists left on Fleet Street.

Doing research? What a source.



This week *The Higher* is publishing complete lists of research degree vacancies for students. Later this summer, in our June 17 and September 9 issues, updated degree vacancies plus, for the first time, research jobs will be listed in full.

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Suspended Irvine considers himself victimised

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN AIDA, JAPAN

EDDIE Irvine, the British driver banned from competing in the Formula One world championship for three races, spoke out about his punishment for the first time last night as the grand prix fraternity congregated here in the mountains of Honshu to prepare for the race at the untested Tanaka International circuit on Sunday.

The irony of the Ulsterman's ban has not been lost even on casual observers. Irvine's suspension, due to his involvement last month in a four-car collision in the first race of the season in Brazil, was extended to three races last week, yet he is the only one among the current crop of grand prix drivers to have negotiated the circuit in a single-seater car, albeit for a public relations photoshoot.

His enforced absence here has allowed Aguri Suzuki, the Japanese driver who raced for Footwork last year but was unable to find a drive this time round, to step into his shoes at Jordan for one race and give a timely boost to ticket sales here, which are reported to have been slack in the face of high prices.

Speaking from Hong Kong, Irvine condemned the decision of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) to increase his ban from one race and threatened to leave the sport if what he sees as a campaign of victimisation against him continues.

"The FIA have made them-



Irvine: ban extended

selves look ridiculous," he said. "They have dug themselves into a big hole because what happened to me could happen at the very next race. In fact, it will happen because somebody changes direction sharply at every grand prix, and that is all I did."

"The onus has to be on the guy behind to take evasive action and Jos Verstappen admitted at the hearing that he had not lifted his foot off the accelerator until his wheels were on the grass."

The accident in Brazil occurred early in the race when Irvine pulled out to overtake the Ligier of Eric Bernard, which had slowed dramatically in front of him. He collided with Verstappen, whose Benetton-Ford cartwheelled across the track and put three other cars, including Irvine's, out of the race.

The severity of Irvine's punishment surprised many grand prix insiders, although he was known to have upset the FIA hierarchy when he turned up to an inquiry surrounding his punch-up with Ayrton Senna last year dressed in jeans and a T-shirt.

"They totally ignored the facts that went for me and took account of all the facts against me," Irvine said. "There is no logic to it. Look at the time Senna deliberately took Frost off at Suzuka and walked away. Not a word was said. And at every race, Berger does something idiotic without being punished for it."

"If they come down on me again, I will definitely walk away because I do not need this kind of thing, but at least the three races they have banned me from — at Aida, Imola and Monaco — are the three best as far as I am concerned because I do not know the circuits."

"My first race back is at Barcelona in the Spanish Grand Prix and I did a good test there for Jordan in January, so that should get me off to a flying start. I will definitely be back with a point to prove."

Irvine will be one of three absentees from the ranks of the established team drivers here. JJ Lehto, of Benetton, has not yet recovered from the crushed neck vertebrae he suffered in a testing crash at Silverstone in January so Verstappen will continue to deputise. Jean Alesi, of Ferrari, is also out injured following a crash while testing in Italy a fortnight ago. His place will be taken by Nicola Larini.

Fresh start casts off winter's weary vigil

Brian Clarke celebrates the start of a new season's fly fishing for trout. It sets the scene for a series, *The Fly Fisher as Detective*, designed to help newcomers obtain the best from the fastest-growing angling pursuit. The emphasis of the series on how to exploit the clues that the fish and the waterside give will also be of value to more experienced anglers

Ask a trout fisherman, pretty well any trout fisherman, when is his favourite time of year and any pause will be brief. Spring, with its flowers and its blossom, its cuckoo and its lark — and, above all, with its heady promise of good times to come — brushes all doubt aside.

After winter, spring is, of course, a necessary corrective. The dark tunnel has lasted so long, the dim light at its end has taken so much time to brighten, that a fishing year needs a spring to lighten the soul.

I am not one of those who needs to busy himself in winter. I do not fill my hours by tivating my tackle and attending meetings and tying a thousand flies that will never get wet. I am of that curdy persuasion that does those things that have to be done before the new season opens, but that goes to the water with the scales of last season's last fish still stuck to the rod handle and with the mud from last season's last outing still adorning my boots.

But when the sun lifts and the evenings lengthen, and the transiency of fresh leaves is greening the river, nothing separates me from the bustlers and the tiers. When spring comes, the urge to fish overwhelms. By April, we all know that the kingcups are out in the sheltered hollows; that the trout are mending and beginning to rise. Too soon, we know, the mayfly will gauge the air, the birds will swoop and swoop, the fish will crash and roll and the season will have peaked before it is scarcely begun.

There are days in spring when it is easy to be seduced: when there are so many flies to bring the fish to the surface that there can arise, even in the novice, intimations of infallibility; fleeting moments when, it seems, he has cracked it at last. A cast is made, the rings oil out, the trout is on.

They are sublime moments and much to be treasured — not least because they will not last long. Older hands are not conned. They know only too well that high summer, the

grim reaper of confidence bringing with it low water and high temperatures, sparse hatches and wary fish, comes next.

June begins the winding down. The leaves are dulling by the middle of the month. The fish may be fat but they are experienced and leery. The fly hatches are becoming fewer and more sparse. The balance of the fishing day slips to the extremes: fish up in the morning and again at dusk.

July blazes, August suffocates — or they are meant to. During the day, the rivers have a lifelessness about them, too. The water slides and winds, unbroken. Swans done themselves in silent bays. Flowers droop.

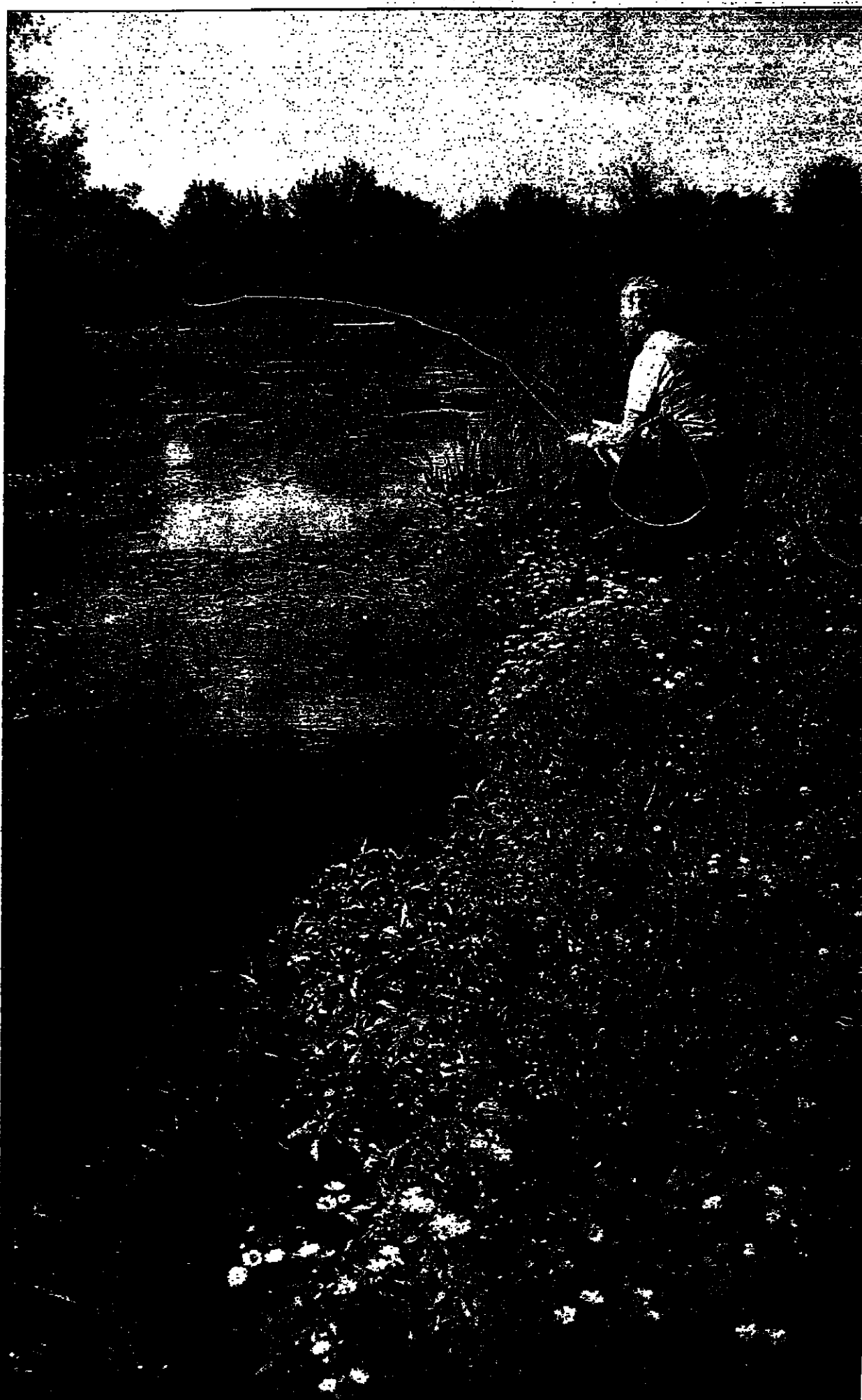
It is the same on lakes. The water stumps. The margins are worn and the fish have sought the cool and shade of the offshore deeps. Again, morning and evening offer the only chance of a fish off the top, unless there is a wind to cool the surface and bring the trout up. Then the only choice is to sit it out until the sun is off the water, or to chase the fish down with a fast-sinking line which many anglers, myself included, take little pleasure in doing.

In September, prospects brighten again. The water cools, more insects hatch and the fish are on the fin. The eddies and threads of current are punctuated with rings and poking noses and the sounds of sipping can be heard close to the banks. On lakes, the shoals of fry are lying across the shallows like winking chain-mail and great fish come within reach of a long cast to gorge. There is not only the promise then of sport, but of exceptional sport. Always someone, somewhere, is taking a whopper.

But September marks the end of the fishing year and to acknowledge it now is to talk the season away.

It is spring. The fish are up. Now comes the time for old hand and beginners alike.

NEXT WEEK
The Fly Fisher as Detective



Kingcups in blossom on the riverbank bring renewed enthusiasm from trout fishermen everywhere

Clubs gain limited peace of mind in pursuit of greater excellence



DAVID HANDS
Rugby Commentary

It seems a long time ago — in fact, it is about nine years — when a president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) reminded a gathering of the media that what we were all involved in was "just a game". It was not true then and is even less so now as business techniques and practices are applied increasingly to sport, whatever its hue.

In principle, he was correct. Sport, as such, is not important, but the virtues embodied in it can be, as can its unifying qualities. So many are cheered by a national sporting success and mortified by failure, even though our interest may be purely peripheral. That is why it is vital for the governing bodies of any leading sport, in any country, to be run efficiently, by people of principle. There have been times when the efficiency of rugby union's rulers has been questioned, but seldom their sincerity.

Happily, the two can be drawn together, as they will tomorrow, when the RFU stages a special general meeting at Twickenham to authorise the registration of the union as an industrial and provident society. Given the plans drawn up for the development of Twickenham a decade ago, one might wonder why such a step, with its primary benefit of limited liability for members, has been delayed so long. Perhaps part of the answer lies with that former president. "Only" a game gets "only" the administration it deserves and, since then, the RFU has expanded enormously.

The coincidence of the meeting tomorrow, on the eve of the CIS County Championship final, may not be lost on those who attend. The championship is the last hurrah of an

area of the game increasingly marginalised. The decision to be taken. RFU officials believe, may provide the model that large numbers of clubs will follow in search of greater excellence, on and off the field. True to tradition, however, the RFU has barnstormed up and down the country to explain the change that will be all but invisible. Other leading unions in rugby have already taken a similar step: the Australian Rugby Football Union Ltd, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union Inc, the Scottish Rugby Union plc. The Welsh, who last year looked as though they might not even have a union, and the Irish retain the status quo, but England's most obvious

change — yet to be confirmed — will be the addition of Ltd to the RFU title.

The reason for change in the RFU's case, as it was for Scotland in 1991, was the expenditure of substantial capital sums on reconstruction programmes at Twickenham and Murrayfield. Without incorporation, member clubs become personally liable for any borrowing undertaken by the union and, since the RFU has gone to the City for the loan of £34 million to rebuild the West Stand, such borrowing has now become real.

The other substantial change in the last decade has been the application of common law that has placed sport's rules and regulations in question. In the case of rugby union, it has long been admitted that the regulations may not withstand cross-examination in the law courts.

The International Rugby Football Board has recently decided that, if legally challenged, it should stand up and be counted. "My experience is that there is always a single catalyst where incorporation is concerned," Peter Bromage, the RFU treasurer, said. "You may have a nasty shock over a contract, or someone has threatened to sue, or you want to buy some property. It's much easier for a limited vehicle to set up debentures and buy a property."

Member clubs will have notional £1 shares in the newly-incorporated body, but they will have no effective value, nor will they be transferable. So what's in a name? In this instance, peace of mind that individual members will not be personally liable for outstanding debt and new ideas for clubs seeking to secure their own membership as they enter an era of expansion. Just a game, indeed.

Sports Letters, page 38

Worrall leads successful strike on Navy target

Royal Air Force 22
Royal Navy 12

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Worrall has been playing Services rugby union for 12 years and, at Twickenham yesterday, he established a record for the three armed services with his 23rd appearance, once more as captain, when the Royal Air Force began the defence of their inter-services title by beating the Royal Navy by a goal and three tries to three penalty goals and dropped goal.

Players such as Worrall, 33, are the lifeblood of rugby, in or out of uniform, and he is still playing his trade at scrum half for Rotherham, who look set for promotion from the fifth division of the Courage league this season. However, the weapons technician from Cottingham found his guid-

ance system astray and only one of his five kicks at goal found the target. When the RAF score tries, the goal kicking does not necessarily matter, but if they do not curb the number of penalties they concede, Steve Powley may punish them in the deciding championship game against the Army on Wednesday.

Hull, who must have felt juvenile surrounded by the beaming, thirty-something half backs on all sides, sparked the RAF's opening assault by running from his own 22. His two wings and Underwood — at full back, where he played in the tournament three years ago — combined and Roke was left to finish.

The stand-off half was also heavily involved in the second try and, when Underwood cruised over to give his side 17-3 interval lead, the RAF looked likely to run up a substantial score. But the Navy battered down the hatches, Price

popped over a couple of penalties and their lineout brought them back into the contest.

However, misfortune overtook them when Price's chip fell to Worrall and Sharp chartered a diagonal course into the Navy 22, where he found Rayner in eager support for a second try.

SCORES: RAF: Times Rayer (2), Roke, Underwood, Cottingham, Worrall, Royal Navy: Penalty goals: Price (3). Dropped goal: Price (1).
ROYAL AIR FORCE: 12: 1 R Underwood (try); 3: 3 G Sharp (penalty), P O E Roke (penalty), J O E Roke (penalty).
ROYAL NAVY: 12: 1 R Underwood (try); 3: 3 G Sharp (penalty), P O E Roke (penalty), J O E Roke (penalty).
ROYAL AIR FORCE: 12: 1 R Underwood (try); 3: 3 G Sharp (penalty), P O E Roke (penalty), J O E Roke (penalty).
ROYAL NAVY: 12: 1 R Underwood (try); 3: 3 G Sharp (penalty), P O E Roke (penalty), J O E Roke (penalty).

Kazakhstan earn respect

By ALAN LORIMER

KAZAKHSTAN arrived in Edinburgh for the women's rugby world championship as an unknown force, but they will surely depart having gained new-found respect.

Yesterday, the former Soviet Republic gave an impressive display of running rugby against Wales at Rieburn Place and were ahead halfway through the first half before eventually going down 29-8.

Kitted out in an attractive blue and black strip and displaying clearly on their cycling shorts the logo of Holsten, their sponsors, Kazakhstan gave Wales a much harder game than expected, but Wales's streetwise knowledge of the game allowed

them to dominate the second half. Moreover, the kicking of Amanda Bennett at stand-off half created a cushion for Wales that kept the opposition in arrears in the second half.

Bennett — no relation to Phil Bennett, the former Wales stand-off — kicked four penalties and one conversion and saw another of her conversion attempts rebound off an upright. Bennett also displayed an eye for an opening, although the Welsh backs failed to capitalise.

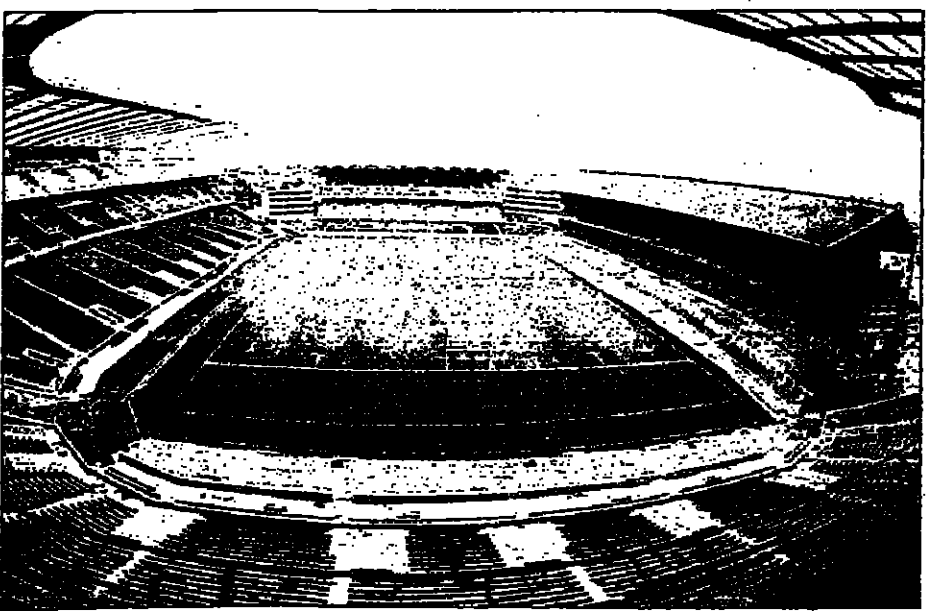
It was the Kazakhstan backs who showed the greater running skills — particularly Albina Tamaeva, the full back, who kicked a first-half penalty, and Sofiya Kabanova, who

scored a try in the first period after a break by Tamaeva.

Wales trailed 6-8 at half-time, but took the lead early in the second half when Kate Eaves, the Welsh lock, powered her way over from a quickly taken penalty.

Bennett's third and fourth penalties took Wales well clear and, when Eaves scored her second try, again from close range, Kazakhstan's hopes were ended. In the final minute, Wales attempted a push-over try, but the Kazakhstan pack collapsed at the scrum. A penalty try was awarded, which Bennett converted.

Results, page 40



Twickenham, home of English rugby union, in all its refurbished glory

new class

they can all bat. It may be said that Middlesex can find no room for Paul Farbrace, preferring instead to stick with Keith Brown, but they won a close friendship with him behind the stumps. It is a pity that Noddy can say with certainty that Metson or Rhodes is "better" than Russell, but something is blowing in the wind. He is a popular cricketer, and, among his team-mates as well as the public at large, and his departure would occasion greater regret than that of others who shall remain nameless.

Chris Lewis, for instance, has done nothing to advance his claims on this tour. The charms of Andrew Cadocidge are hard to detect. England will have to look to Graham Hick until the cows come home. Yet Russell's place is more uncertain than any of them. It is as if he had old world, but whoever said cricketer, like life, is fair?

Trinity was on in the eleven o'clock slot, as early as a leg spin can have been introduced in an English season.

His second ball, a googly which drifted in the bouncer, accounted for Saxelby who, like Morris, was feeling his way for his new county. Durham opted not to include their other new batsman Longley, and the last session was somewhat uninspired as Bainbridge and Scott settled for a few runs.

But nobody cared. Of the 66 or so spectators who saw their two sessions through, most have come before and most will come again. Only the Japanese tourists were bemused by this quaint ritual. The blackhorn was out, the season had started, and those who witnessed it were in

BASKETBALL: Manchester Giants basketball squad are celebrating reaching Wembley for the first time in four years. Their place in the play-off finals on April 30-May 1 was secured by a 90-88 win over Birmingham Bullets that gave the Giants a 2-0 aggregate win. Helped by 25 points from Joe Hillman, the American guard, the Giants clinched their passage with two late free throws from Curt Samuels. "I'm happier for the players more than anyone," Rick Taylor, the general manager, said. "They've not had an easy week."

There was a difference between the two before the latter was lifted from Chapman, with the total on 40, lobbed to third and a slip of a glove. Jones, always sure, survived through the lunch interval which came with Cambridge by no means disgraced at 61 for two.

The Cambridge middle order found the orthodox spin of Afford and Field-Seam's more than a little irritating. The batsmen were warned. The odd ball straightened, but slowly, yet the remaining batsmen looked uncomfortable.

While Evans gained some reward for his honest seamer's ball, Afford and Field-Seam's picked off five good wickets between them. It was left to Cooke and Bashforth to show what they were made of and it was during a last-innings stroke of the match that they showed they were not to be taken for granted. They may have been, but in the circumstances riches indeed.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-28, 3-120, 4-161, 5-189, 6-182, 7-183, 8-188, 9-181.
BOWLING: Srishanth 10-1-48-3; Bhupinder 10-1-34-3; Jacobs 5-0-32-0; Tendulkar 5-0-22-0; Raju 10-0-32-1; Kurmbe 10-0-30-2.
 Men of the match: V G Karbil.
 Impress: K Karjee (Zimbabwe) and B Lambson (South Africa).

RUGBY LEAGUE

TONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Bedford Northern 10 Wiggin 6. Second Division: Swinton 18 Crusaders 20.

RUGBY UNION

INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIP: Royal Navy 12 RAF 22 (at Twickenham).

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Scotland): Pool A: Sweden 5 Japan 10. Pool C: Ireland 18 Scottish Students 5. Pool D: Wales 10 Kazakhstan 9.

TENNIS

HIBBINGHAM, Alabama: US clay court championships. Final round: D Warr (US) bt M Washington (US) 7-5, 6-4; G Stafford (SA) bt S Cortes (Colo) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; B Shelton (US) bt R Wiles (US) 6-3, 6-4; C van

EVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION:

CRICKET
University matches
1.30 to 6.30, second day of three)
INNER'S: Cambridge University v
Nottinghamshire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v
Durham

OTHER SPORT
OLF: Father and Son tournament (West
 8, Surrey).
FEEDWAY: British League: First
 division: Ipswich v Poole (7.30). Second
 division: Middlesbrough v Oxford (7.30).

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FA Cup giant-killers in trouble Bolton and Luton slide towards fight for survival

By Keith Pike

IT WAS glorious while it lasted, but Bolton Wanderers and Luton Town, whose exploits in the FA Cup this season had disguised some moderate Endersleigh insurance League performances, are now faced with a fight for survival in the first division.

Both were beaten 2-0 at home on Tuesday night. Bolton by Southern United and Luton by Wolverhampton Wanderers, and head a group of eight clubs from which the three to go down seem certain to come.

Since their Cup run ended in the sixth round at Oldham Athletic's hands, Bolton, earlier conquerors of Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa, have taken two points out of a possible 21 and are only six points clear of Oxford United, who occupy the third relegation spot. On Saturday, Bolton visit Peterborough United, the bottom club, and defeat there will greatly increase their worries.

Luton, one point worse off than Bolton, at least have the benefit of two matches in hand, but their exertions against Chelsea at Wembley on Saturday seemed to catch up with them at Kenilworth Road, particularly their young Wales international midfielder, Carl Hughes.

Hughes was taken to hospital after suffering severe headaches and collapsing in the dressing-room at half-time. He was discharged yesterday after a series of tests, and "will spend the next day or two at home with his feet up", according to David Pleat, the Luton manager.

"It is a bit of a mystery as he had not taken an obvious blow to the head in the first half, but hopefully he will be fit for Saturday," Pleat said. Both he and Hughes will hope so — Luton are at home to the clear leaders, Crystal Palace, and Mike Smith, the Wales manager, will watch the game in

advance of their international against Sweden at Wrexham next Wednesday when Hughes, along with the Palace pair of Young and Coleman, will be in contention for places.

Wolverhampton's victory, their third in five games since Graham Taylor was appointed manager, lifted them to eighth place, three points adrift of the play-off zone. Guy Whittingham's goal, their second, was his sixth in six games.

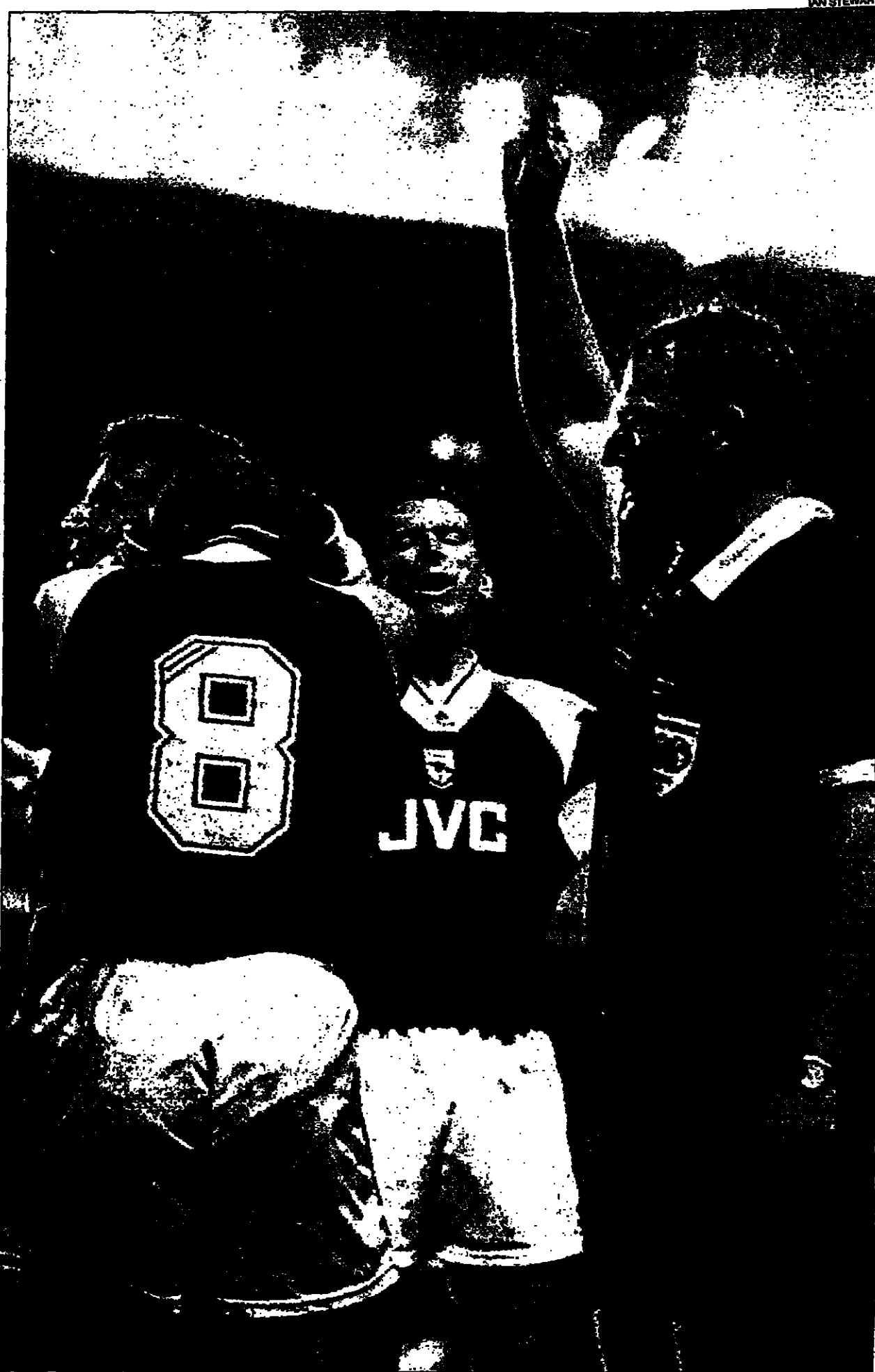
Two of the teams above them, Notts County and Tranmere Rovers, fought out a goalless draw at Meadow Lane after Morrissey, the Tranmere winger, was sent off for violent conduct on the stroke of half-time. Dyer, of Oxford, and Raven, of West Bromwich Albion, were also dismissed for fighting, as the struggling teams drew 1-1 at the Manor Ground.

Reading moved a step nearer the second division championship when Lovell's first-half goal was enough to account for already-relegated Barnet at Underhill. Reading are now six points clear of Plymouth Argyle.

Two of the chasing clubs, Port Vale and Stockport County, were indebted to late goals for the victories that kept them on Plymouth's heels. Gareth Griffiths, the Port Vale defender, scored the second goal of the night four minutes from time as they beat Rotherham United, and Andy Preece grabbed a last-minute winner for Stockport against Swansea City at the Vetch Field.

Shrewsbury Town are the new leaders of the third division. Bottom of the table in August but beaten only once in their last 20 matches, they displaced Chester City with a 2-1 win at Rochdale.

Paul McGrath, the Aston Villa central defender, has withdrawn from the Ireland squad for next Wednesday's international against Holland in Tilburg. McGrath has pulled out because he is still troubled by a neck problem. The 34-year-old player has missed all four of Villa's FA Cup Premier League matches since their Coca-Cola Cup final triumph.



Wright, No 8, in the wrong as he receives the yellow card that will keep him out of the Cup Winners' Cup final

Loss of Wright haunts Arsenal

By Keith Pike

THAT one player's indiscretion and subsequent tears should almost overshadow his team's achievement in reaching the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup seems volumes for Ian Wright's importance to Arsenal.

His effectiveness in leading the attack, as much as his ability to conjure goals out of nothing, has given an otherwise methodical team the ability to compete with, and conquer, the best.

Yet it was that same impetuosity that proved Wright's undoing against Paris Saint-Germain at Highbury on Tuesday. Half-time was approaching and Arsenal were clinging, albeit uncomfortably, to the early header by Kevin Campbell that had given

them a winning 2-1 lead in the tie when Wright pursued Roche into his own half near the touchline. With the ball in a position where Arsenal were not threatened and with the Danish referee having already twice brandished the yellow card as he strove to contain a predictably physical encounter, there was no need to attempt a tackle, but, instinctively, Wright slid in, missed the ball by a matter of inches and caught the defender fractionally late. The punishment was instant and irrevocable.

Dennis Bergkamp, the Holland forward, whose form has been disappointing and whose future with Internazionale subject of speculation, was back to his best in Milan on Tuesday night as Inter claimed their place in the final

of the Uefa Cup. He scored the first goal from a penalty and was involved in the moves that led to second-half goals by Nicola Bertini and Wim Jonck as Inter beat Cagliari 3-0 to overturn a 3-2 deficit from the first leg of their semi-final. In the two-legged final, they will play Casino Salzburg, whose defeat of Karlsruhe on away goals makes them only the third Austrian side to reach a European final, and the first in the Uefa Cup.

Jean-Pierre Papin, 30, the France striker, has agreed to a £2.2 million transfer from AC Milan to Bayern Munich. "The deal is complete," Markus Hoerwisch, a Bayern spokesman, said yesterday. "Papin has signed a two-year contract and has come through a medical okay. It's all fine."

The Natal Union is extending its Kings Park stadium to a capacity of 33,000, giving South Africa four stadiums holding over 30,000, while the smallest venue will take 12,000. Ticket prices are likely to be below those of the five nations' championship. "The eyes of the world will be on the England tour, people will see it as a staging post for the World Cup," Jamieson, 32 and a stockbroker before becoming the Natal Rugby Union's general manager, said. "It's a whole new concept for South Africans, who are used to tours but not to tournaments." More than a million spectators are anticipated for the 32 World Cup matches.

Commentary, page 39

| | |
|---|--|
| EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Arsenal 1 Paris Saint-Germain 0 (agg 2-1). UEFA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Karlsruhe (Ger) 1 Casino Salzburg (Austria) 1 (agg 1-1). Casino Salzburg win on away goals. International Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Borussia Dortmund 2 Schalke 04 0 (agg 3-0). UEFA Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Borussia Dortmund 2 Schalke 04 0 (agg 3-0). | |
| ENDERSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 0 Walsley 2; Bolton Wanderers 0 Southern United 2; Gillingham 1 West Bromwich Albion 1; Second division: Barnet 0 Reading 1; Brighton 3 Cardiff City 5; Huddersfield Town 3 Wrexham 0; Port Vale 2 Rotherham United 1; Swansea City 1 Stockport County 2; Third division: Gillingham 2 Preston North End 2; Rochdale 1 Shrewsbury Town 0. | |
| GM VALLEYS LEAGUE: First division: Altrincham 2 Runcorn 1; Barn 0 Woking 1; Northwich 1 Colchester 2; Second division: Southport 1; Third division: Southport 1; Fourth division: Southport 1; Fifth division: Southport 1. | |
| SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0; Second division: Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0; Third division: Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0; Fourth division: Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0. | |
| KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor 3 Mold 0; Carmarthen 1 Elbow Vale 1; Llanelli 1 Caerwys 1; Merthyr Tydfil 1; Swansea City 1. | |
| WILSON'S SWINDON LEAGUE: First division: Swindon 1; Second division: Swindon 1; Third division: Swindon 1; Fourth division: Swindon 1. | |
| PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Pontins 1; Second division: Pontins 1; Third division: Pontins 1; Fourth division: Pontins 1. | |
| NEVILLE OVEREND COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 3 Luton 1; QPR 1 Wrexham 0; Second division: Bristol City 3 Luton 1; QPR 1 Wrexham 0. | |
| DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Diadora 1; Second division: Diadora 1; Third division: Diadora 1; Fourth division: Diadora 1. | |
| FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Federation Brewery 1; Second division: Federation Brewery 1; Third division: Federation Brewery 1; Fourth division: Federation Brewery 1. | |
| DUTCH LEAGUE: FC Volendam 1 Ajax 0; FC Twente 1; FC Utrecht 1; FC Vitesse 1; FC Go Ahead Eagles 1. | |
| JEWELL LEAGUE: First division: Jewell 1; Second division: Jewell 1; Third division: Jewell 1; Fourth division: Jewell 1. | |
| NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE: First division: Northern Counties East 1; Second division: Northern Counties East 1; Third division: Northern Counties East 1; Fourth division: Northern Counties East 1. | |
| BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: First division: Beazer Homes 1; Second division: Beazer Homes 1; Third division: Beazer Homes 1; Fourth division: Beazer Homes 1. | |
| DOUGLAS LEAGUE: First division: Douglas 1; Second division: Douglas 1; Third division: Douglas 1; Fourth division: Douglas 1. | |

Variety adds spice to famous sporting lives

Simon Barnes leads the applause for a select band who, as well as reaching the summit in their main game, have also managed to excel in another

There is a thread that links Hoover City, Alabama, with Scunthorpe. Holding one end is Michael Jordan, a basketball star reckoned by more than half the world to be the finest athlete that ever drew breath; holding the other is Ian Botham, the most colossal cricketer since W. G. Grace.

Both achieved such extraordinary eminence in their chosen sport that they changed its nature and quite doubled its following. But both believed that life had more to offer. They went to Hoover City, and to Scunthorpe, to seek it.

Botham, having created his legend in cricket, chose to play football for Scunthorpe United. Jordan, having reinvented basketball, has gone to Hoover City to play baseball for Birmingham Barons, a team not quite as eminent in baseball as Scunthorpe are in football.

The Barons are a Double-A team, which puts them below Triple-A teams, which puts them below Major League teams. And they won this week and Jordan had the best game of his career. He had his first RBI — Run Batted In, which is to say the team scored a run through Jordan's effectiveness — and he had his first stolen base as the Barons beat Knoxville Smokies 4-1.

It seems increasingly clear that Jordan is relishing in his second sporting career, just as Botham got an immense kick from battling it out with Scunthorpe. Both are part of a long sporting tradition of double excellence.

Rob Andrew, the England rugby international, has a first-class century to his name, scored while playing for Cambridge University. Gary Lineker, the former England football captain, plays cricket at a very presentable level and might have been involved in a 12-months-of-the-year sport. He has played a number of games for MCC, including a match against a German XI, so perhaps one could stretch a point and call him a double international.



Jordan: switched to baseball

On that occasion, he was out for a single and said famously: "I always get one against Germany." It was, as sporting quips go, a delightful throw-back to the days of effortless sporting excellence.

The ultimate achievement of this quest for double excellence is to become a double international; something that sounds immeasurably dated, redolent of times past. But this is not altogether the case.

Jeff Wilson played for the All Blacks, the New Zealand rugby team, last autumn and had a memorable tour. He had previously played for New Zealand at cricket, in a one-day international. The new Wisden lists 25 rugby-cricket internationalists, these including the manager of the England cricket tour to the West Indies, M. J. K. Smith.

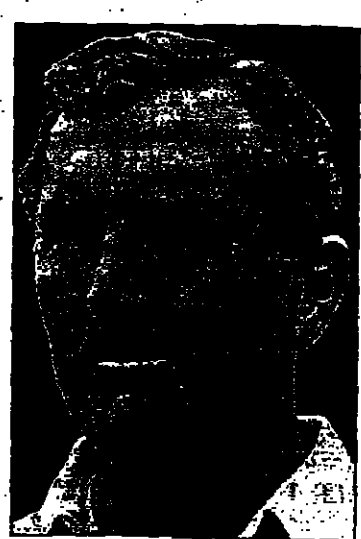
Another is Brian McKechnie, an All Black who also played one-day cricket for New Zealand — in fact it was to him that Trevor Chappell delivered that infamous underarm delivery of 1981.

The archetypal double international was probably Denis Compton, the great embodiment of effortless excellence. But this is a classic example of myth outstripping reality.

Compton played football for Arsenal, but never for England, unless you count a Victory Interna-

sonal. His brother Leslie, Middlesex wicketkeeper, played football for England, but never cricket. The ultimate example of all-round sporting brilliance was C. B. Fry, who played full back for Southampton in the FA Cup Final of 1902 against Sheffield United and the following Monday made 82 at the Oval. He was, naturally, a double international — and he also held the world long-jump record for 21 years.

Certainly, nobody could do such



Fry: Corinthian all-rounder

a thing now. This represents not the falling of standards but their rise. The age of the gentleman amateur has gone. It is worth remembering that the Italians translate amateurs as dilettanti.

Top level sport is now a full-time career, in sports where this fact is true, standards are highest. And as even rugby union increases its level of commitment, it is worth wondering if Wilson will be the last double international.

Such a double eminence captures the mind. It is not, on the face of it, so remarkable that an athletic person with a good eye for a ball should be able to carry those qualities from one game to another.

It would be more remarkable if Jordan were to become a concert pianist, or Botham to translate *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*.

But the double notion of sporting excellence has a great appeal. At its heart lies this business of effortless-

We admire the insatiable dedication of the top performers: the single-mindedness of Linford Christie, Ake Stewart, David Platt. But achievements beyond mere single-mindedness seem so much more attractive.

It is a dream of idle brilliance, and who can resist such a thing? How do you play this game anyway? And wallow, Curly Ambrose is hit for six and Peter Schmeichel is picking the ball out of the net. I think I'll break the world long-jump record, translate Proust and then maybe a spot of lunch.

Jamieson's World Cup cheer echoed by ANC chief

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CRAIG Jamieson will return to Durban tomorrow at the end of a week-long fact-finding visit to England, optimistic that next year's Rugby World Cup (RWC) in South Africa, of which he is the tournament director, will be the biggest and best so far.

Jamieson, the former Natal scrum half, would say that, of course. In the state of flux in which South Africa exists in the run-up to the elections later this month, officials there must express optimism both about the forthcoming tour by England and next year's tournament. Yet Jamieson, based in a province where a state of emergency still reigns, seeks to emphasise that life far many goes on as normal.

He will be encouraged in his optimism by Steve Tshwete, the head of the sports department of the African National Congress (ANC), who assured rugby dignitaries in Johannesburg yesterday that South Africa would be a safe place to stage the World Cup. He expected less violence after the elections.

Tshwete said that the ANC, widely expected to win the elections in two weeks' time, would do everything in its power to ensure the safety of participants.

During his visits to Ray Williams, his predecessor for the 1991 tournament, Jamieson stressed the importance of the tournament to his country: "Sport is a phenomenon that brings people together and we need that, a common goal with people pulling together," he said.

"Sport binds people of all religions, all colours. We saw that in 1990 when Natal won the Currie Cup for the first time in its history. A ticket-price parade was organised and a lot of players wondered what for, but people of all colours lined the streets to show their appreciation."

The South African Rugby Football Union's aim is to make this World Cup the biggest and the best. There is concern about what may happen after the election, but a very positive that good sense will prevail," Jamieson pointed out that the Inkatha Freedom Party had offered guarantees of safety to New South Wales players whose visit to Durban on April 23 has been cancelled.

The Natal Union is extending its Kings Park stadium to a capacity of 33,000, giving South Africa four stadiums holding over 30,000, while the smallest venue will take 12,000. Ticket prices are likely to be below those of the five nations' championship.

"The eyes of the world will be on the England tour, people will see it as a staging post for the World Cup," Jamieson, 32 and a stockbroker before becoming the Natal Rugby Union's general manager, said.

"It's a whole new concept for South Africans, who are used to tours but not to tournaments." More than a million spectators are anticipated for the 32 World Cup matches.

Commentary, page 39

**England
had them
for
breakfast.**

Have you had your Weetabix?
They're good for your bowls.

SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 14 1994

West Indies suffer first defeat in Barbados for 59 years

England sweep to famous victory

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

THE proudest boast of the West Indies is that they have not lost a Test series for 14 years, but nothing else has inspired them as much as their remarkable record here in Bridgetown. England may have made no impression on the series, but their tour has not been in vain. Yesterday saw to that, victory by 208 runs making them the first team to win on this ground for 59 years.

Noisily acclaimed by their vast and faithful support here in Little England, Michael Atherton's team turned history on its head in this spectacular Fourth Test. Their incredible revival, after the shame of 46 all out in Trinidad and the debacle against a West

Tufnell began his probing into the rough outside the left-handers' off-stump. Lara continually stepped away to cut, not in desperation but in unshakeable self-belief.

He was not beyond the occasional slog, and Tufnell chafed as Lara narrowly cleared Stewart at long-on with one speculative heave, but he more than compensated with a wondrous whip off his legs to the mid-wicket fence when Fraser pitched fractionally short.

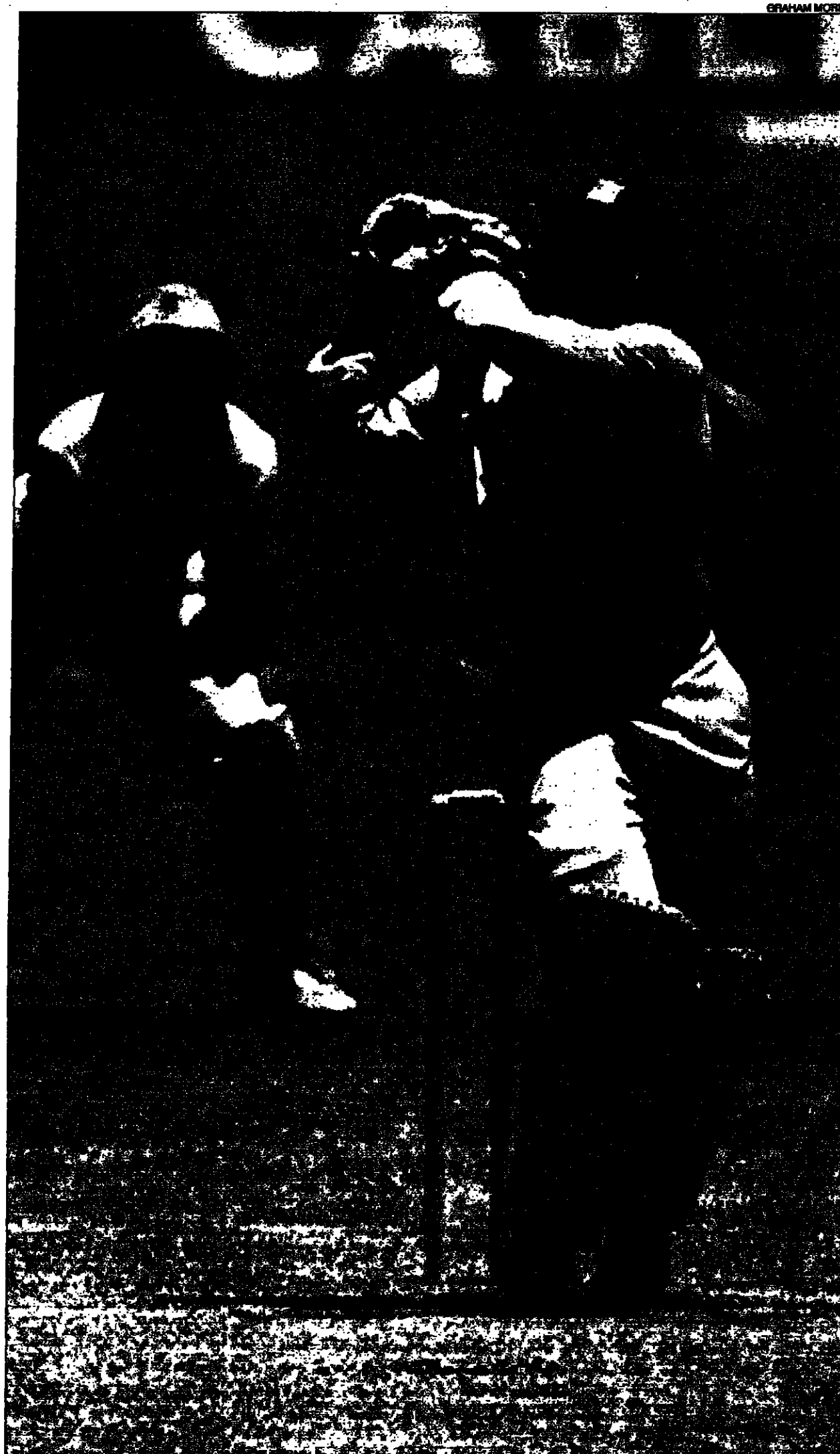
Keith Arthurton supported with the will of a man who knew he suddenly had it to do. In Jamaica, where this series began two months ago, Arthurton struffed his stuff with such style that few still doubted his automatic selection. But since that century, he had made only 48 runs in four further innings and the mutterings about his application had resumed.

Early on, England were having little luck. The pitch was playing well, the bounce only occasionally low, and the parched outfield was at its quickest. With Lara in this mood, minor indiscretions were heavily punished. He did have a reprieve on 38, his second of the innings, in Caddick's first over of the morning, though Ramprakash's drop, 15 yards from the bat at short extra-cover, was from a drive struck with forbidding force.

Caddick offered too much width to a man who loves nothing better but, when his line was closer to off-stump, he still posed a threat. Lara edged him just short of slip, a forced error, but chided the bowler's impudence by hitting the next two for four, a deliberate late cut and a vivid square drive.

Well into the second hour, Atherton summoned Lewis, whose contribution within the four-man attack had been two of England's previous 71 overs. It was neither a long nor a particularly distinguished spell, however, and it was to Caddick that the vital third wicket fell. Lara, too far underneath an attempted pull, so nearly got away with it but Tufnell, whose fielding can no longer be derided, ran 15 yards back from wide mid-on and took a difficult catch over his shoulder.

Forty minutes passed, an arid time for England, and against two left-handers it was a play long overdue when Hick's off-spin was used for the last over of the session. Atherton has never made a more effective change, for Hick needed one ball to remove the risk of another intransigent innings by Chandrapaul. Half-forward, he edged to slip. England



Lara pulls Caddick towards Tufnell, who took a remarkable catch to keep England on track for victory



Caddick: five wickets

Indian second team in Grenada, would attract stewards' enquiries and rumours of foul play if this was horse racing. In cricket, it is just a symptom of the game's matchless uncertainty.

It is not in the West Indian nature to bat defensively for an entire day, nor even to make a pretence of it. Yesterday, setting off with 399 needed, two men out and two more injured, was no exception. Richie Richardson had set no kind of example with his hot-headed stroke-play on the fourth evening and, yesterday, it was quickly clear that Brian Lara intended to bat as if West Indies were a good deal shorter than their overnight 66-1 to win the match.

Inside the first hour, 63 runs were added without further casualties and, on the most stifling hot day of the game, the thousands of England supporters, now forming a visiting majority in another marvellous crowd, were muted as Lara, to whom no target seems entirely impossible, gave a demonstration of why the Warwickshire membership ought to double after the news of his registration.

His daring would be foolishness in someone of lesser ability; somehow, Lara rides the stormiest seas serenely. As

pranced off full of expectation: without the wicket, it would have been a pensive retreat.

Richardson emerged with a runner, his hamstring serious enough to make him doubtful for his home Test in Antigua, which starts on Saturday, and when he lost Arthurton, the last able-bodied specialist batsman, half an hour after lunch, England sensed that victory was close. This was a richly deserved wicket for Tufnell, Arthurton going back and edging a ball of minimal bounce into his stumps.

England's previous 14 wickets in the match had all come from catches and the trend was to be resumed as Caddick began an incisive spell from the City End. Murray, turned square-on by a ball leaving him, edged to an exultant Thorpe at first slip, then the wearily immobile Richardson launched his trademark square-drive, only to see it nestling in Ramprakash's midriff at cover.

Photograph, page 1
Gloves thrown down, page 40

Surrey in urgent hunt for Waqar stand-in

By SIMON WILDE

SURREY go into the new cricket season, which began yesterday, uncertain as to the identity of their overseas player. Medical reports from Pakistan that Waqar Younis, their first choice, will be unavailable for at least the first six weeks of the season, after undergoing an appendix operation at the weekend, allied to his anticipated absence for another six weeks to tour Sri Lanka from mid-July, have set the county actively seeking a replacement.

Glyn Woodman, Surrey's chief executive, said yesterday: "It is difficult to acquire details about the condition of a player 4,000 miles away. We have two or three irons in the fire, although none of them is particularly hot. All of them, though, are Test match players."

Surrey's chances of swiftly signing another frontline fast bowler are remote, but they are keeping their options open. Most candidates have prior commitments: the leading bowlers from New Zealand and South Africa will be touring England and Pakistanis will be required for the tour of Sri Lanka.

That effectively reduces the field to Australians, West Indians and Indians and, if they have played county cricket before, they would have to be signed on at least a two-year contract. Surrey would be reluctant to do that as Waqar's existing three-year contract, reportedly worth £250,000, does not expire until the end of 1995.

A further difficulty is that several Surrey officials, including Alex Stewart, the captain, and Brian Downing, the chairman-elect, are in the Caribbean. Woodman reckoned the chances of an overseas player being in place for the county's opening fixture, a Benson and Hedges Cup tie against Somerset at the Oval on April 26, as "nearly nil". Allan Donald, the South African fast bowler, will ignore pleas from his country's officials to reduce his commitments with Warwickshire, to avoid getting tired. Donald, who will rejoin the county next year after touring England with South Africa this summer, has pledged his future to Warwickshire.

Cambridge collapse, page 40

Sensini's header propels Parma into final

Parma..... 1
Benfica..... 0
(agg: 2-2; Parma win on away goals)
By A Correspondent

NESTOR Sensini's 77th-minute header gave Parma a narrow victory, on the away goals rule, over Benfica in the second leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final yesterday. They will play Arsenal, who beat Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 on Tuesday, in the final in Copenhagen on May 4.

Benfica, although playing with only ten players from the 33rd minute following the dismissal of Mozer, their Brazilian defender, withstood Parma's steady attacks for 44 minutes before finally surrendering. Sensini, the Argentinian, headed the ball in from an acute angle from a corner from Gianfranco Zola.

"I was lucky to put the ball in from an almost impossible position," Sensini, who joined Parma from Udinese during the season, said. "This is a kind of goal which really counts. I'm overjoyed for helping Parma to reach the cup final by defeating very tough opponents."

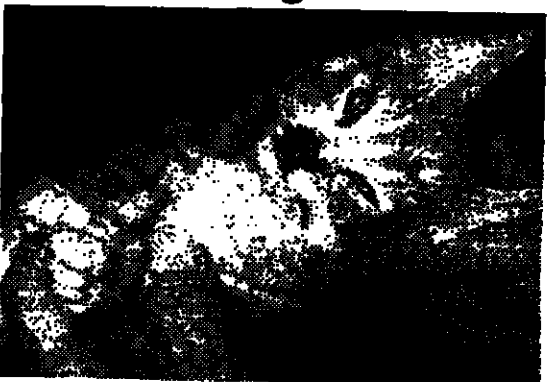
It was Benfica's first defeat in the competition this season as Parma earned their second successive final. In 1993, they beat Royal Antwerp, of Belgium, 3-1 at Wembley.

Parma, without the suspended Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia striker, struggled to make any headway until Benfica had been reduced to ten players, but they gradually took control after Mozer was sent off by Mario van der Ende, the Dutch referee, for his second bookable offence. He received his yellow cards within 25 minutes for bad fouls on Sensini and Luigi Apolloni.

Before Sensini's goal, Thomas Brodin, the Sweden forward, had wasted two clear chances while a precise shot from Zola in the 58th minute had struck a post. Stefan Schwarz had Benfica's best opportunity, but his effort was saved by Luca Bucci, the Parma goalkeeper.

PARMA: L. Bucci; A. Benarrivo (sub: D. Bellini, Schuster); A. Di Chiara, G. Pini, L. Apolloni, G. Gini (sub: R. Colacone, G. N. Senesi); D. Zola, M. Crespi, G. Zola, T. Sensini.
BENFICA: A. Nuno; A. Xavier, Mozer, W. Andrade, K. Senesi (sub: Bito, G. V. Ribeiro, V. Pereira, J. Pinto, S. Schuster, R. Costa, J. J. Henriques, J. J. Schuster). Referee: M. van der Ende (Holland).

"I'm going home to kick the cat," he didn't joke.



This tiny kitten was literally kicked to death by her owner.

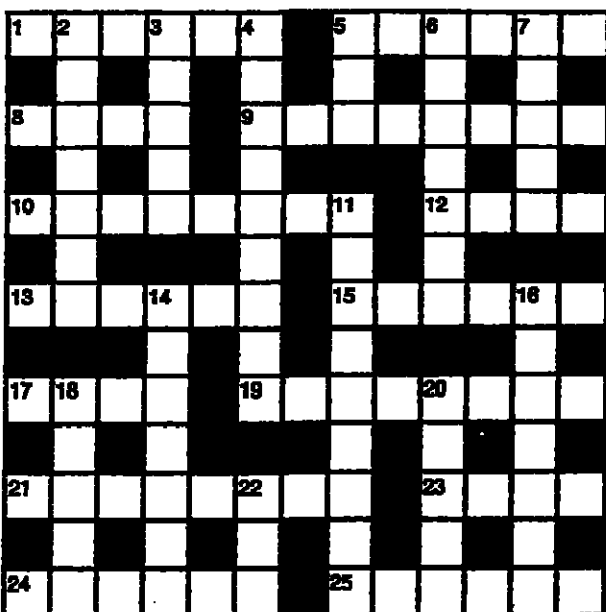
She was just eight weeks old. Every year, the RSPCA deals with thousands of sickening cases like this. But we receive no funding from the Government, so we rely entirely on donations to continue our good work. Please give generously. Contrary to popular belief, cats only get one life.

Please tick the box if you are already a supporter. ☐ 1
Please tick the box if you would like information on becoming an RSPCA member. ☐ 2

Please use my donation to fight animal cruelty. £50 ☐ £20 ☐ £10 ☐ £5 ☐ I prefer to give £

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Postcode: _____
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 138

ACROSS

- 1 Grabbable part of neck (6)
- 5 Domed roof (6)
- 8 Fish organ; liquid measure (4)
- 9 Reprove; shame (8)
- 12 Tax deduction at source (1,1,1,1)
- 13 Short-sightedness (6)
- 15 Outburst of protest (6)
- 17 Brought into existence (4)
- 19 Cutting-in dance (6-2)
- 21 Wasp-larva gall; Restoration anniversary day (3-5)
- 23 Reduce (sail); undersea ridge (4)
- 24 Adopt (4,2)
- 25 Stenographer (6)

DOWN

- 2 Smoke conduit structure (7)
- 3 Dark (5)
- 4 Of top quality (5-4)
- 5 International; limit (3)
- 6 Thrive (7)
- 7 Fortunate (5)
- 11 Lacking (9)
- 14 Make-up stick; fried batter (7)
- 16 Baby's one-piece garment (7)
- 18 Nebraska city; Normandy landing beach (5)
- 20 Fragment of material (5)
- 22 Worthless purchase; infant seal (3)

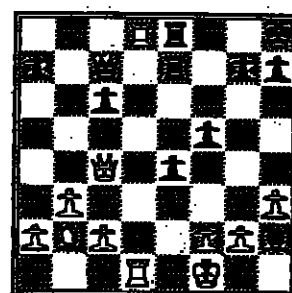
SOLUTION TO NO 137

ACROSS: 1 Timer 4 Abdomen 8 Isthmus 9 Antic 10 Merit 11 Mobbed 13 In debt 15 Arable 18 Squal 20 Swarm 22 Plonk 23 Drunken 24 Traipse 25 Funds

DOWN: 1 Triumph 2 Matured 3 Remit 4 Assume 5 Drabber 6 Mire 7 Neck 12 Terminus 14 Break up 16 Bracken 17 Fledge 19 Quota 20 Smiff 21 Spit

Today's position is from the game Szalanczy - Vansura, Hungary 1988. Black's back rank is exposed and the g7-square similarly vulnerable. How did White exploit these weaknesses with a clever thrust?

Solution, page 38



By Philip Howard

WEMOD

- a. Passionate
- b. An Anglo-Saxon court
- c. A boil or pustule

WHIMLING

- a. A small inshore sea-fish
- b. A light breeze
- c. A childish person

ACETABULUM

- a. A vinegar bottle
- b. Sarcasim
- c. A clergyman's dicky

BIRSE

- a. To flay or skin
- b. The act of pressing
- c. The wild cherry

Answers on page 38